

Interactive Infrastructure

The oldest royal Croatian town of Nin with its remarkable rich tradition have gone under lot of changes throughout the history. Once Illyrian squares, afterwards Roman forum and medieval churches were always focal points in the past, marked as places of gathering, places of everyday life. Nowadays the sum of historic buildings and ruins combined with the “new built” structures within the old city walls are rather forming a low silhouette city height, giving a pedestrians orientation clarity of walking through the city while spotting built heritage. In the past few decades, since it became popular tourist destination, the city started expanding more and more outside of the old town’s border in an arbitrary manner, leaving infrastructural and functional problems unresolved. As a result, Nin’s historical essence and future progress shadowed by the recent unstructured development, leaves the city not rising up to its full potential.

Furthermore the remarkable geographical situation, climate and quality of life that Nin obtains, allows a proposal, which builds around its existing natural resources and traditional cycles, enhancing new development strategies and content for all year round productive city. A way to emphasize new programs is by placing nine verticals beyond the old city walls, as the reminiscence of the nine lost gathering spaces around medieval churches, which defined city’s most important component, a public space. Following the axis intersections from the saltworks grid, nine new upright markers placed on strategically crucial positions, promptly suggest future polycentric city structure. Also understanding Nin as a small, peaceful and eco-friendly town, our guidance for minimizing ecological impact on the environment and economic design solves by placing simple wooden construction bases, which serves more as an infrastructure rather than an actual building. From there a new, original perspective of the town emerges, enriching it with a look from the above at Nin’s bay and Adriatic archipelago.

Essentially, each tower, depending on the location and offered program, becomes a landmark that defines the area around it, provides necessity to the usage and attaches different users under seasonal circumstances. On the other hand, their façade, as well their usage vary between each other, making some more, less or not interactive at all. Equally important are the connections among the verticals, which thought as communicative, linear, spaces where

users, based on their needs, are able to change the moving parts by sliding, opening and closing or just by absorbing its values. Its utilization flexibility and simplicity do not require extra maintenance nor big investments. Therefore, they are functioning regardless of having smaller number of visitors in the winter or bigger groups of people in the summer period.

As the saltworks grid, characterized with clarity and ordered structure, and its imaginary grid axis extends on the Ždrijac site perimeter in the same fashion. The idea of a new urban dwelling matrix meets the existing village on the northern part, forming a green infrastructure buffer stripe between them. Likewise the housing plots in the historical part of Nin feature a high perimeter stone wall with a portal and a house, forming a large area of enclosed yard, came a belief of using the portal as a direct link between urban street and private courtyard, which gives residents and visitors a unique quality of indoor/outdoor life. A new utilitarian building volume on the street front embodies different programs depending on the season by having a large space for various purposes throughout the year - outdoor living in summer and the function of a tavern/home workshop in winter. The new housing typology enables seasonal movement of owners and tourists within the residential plot during the year giving an opportunity to interact more or less with one another, respecting tourist privacy at all time. The proprietor moves during the summer season in the utility block and leaves the main house for the guests. Due to its flexibility and adaptability, interior of both primary and secondary block modifies into a various apartment combinations to provide different tourist and owners needs, not lacking in comfort.

Given these points, a successful development of a sustainable city lies exactly on small interventions, where the city itself keeps its identity, not suffering from the tourists and big dwelling complexes, but respects and stays one with its specific biodiversity, increases different offers and programs by working with the town residents and resources around the area. Nin, as already mentioned above, has a prosperity of branding itself as a first true gastronomic destination where the display of specific flora and fauna with the cultural-history richness can result as one of the new venues on the Dalmatian coast. With this proposal, its enormous production/manifestation capacity gives necessary strategies for the efficient future sustainability, which provides the next generation tools for the future development.