URBAN LIVING ROOM

VOKIEČIŲ G., VILNIUS, RECONSTRUCTION DESIGN CONTEST

2020
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Vokiečių Street is one of the oldest streets in Vilnius. The name dates back to the 14th century, when German merchants and artisans settled here. This street was first depicted in about 1581 in the published Braun’s Atlas. This street was and remains one of the most important streets of the city, where crafts, trade and other important functions of urban life were concentrated.

Historically, the pedestrian movement was organized based on a part of the pavement. People moving on a cozy street could look around the shop’s windows, choose a service or a building they wanted to visit. Currently, an indefinite space and an awkward passage is formed on the street. It lacks articulated and cozy spaces for the various needs of the citizens.

In the project, we propose to conceptually restore the former buildings, in which cozy urban areas of different sizes and configurations are formed in the places of the former buildings - urban living rooms. They are adapted to the diverse and ever-changing needs of the city.
2.Architectural Concept

First of all, cozy paving-based spaces are formed on the sites of the former buildings. It is an allusion to the contour of the former structures. The spaces between the houses - the green terrain - symbolize the courtyards that were in the gaps.

In order to provide coziness, privacy and certainty, green areas are formed on the principle of changing relief. It is a connection between the spaces formed by green and hard surfaces, when each complements other, creating a unique character unique only to this place - the inner spaces surrounded by green slopes in the places of the former construction.

Indoor spaces of different sizes and configurations distinguish different emotions and different activities - a kind of micro-cosmos in the city center, where different groups of people can engage in different activities at the same time and not interfere with each other.
BOUNDARY OF HISTORICAL VOKIEČIŲ STREET PERIMETER

SECTIONS THROUGH ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

SCULPTURE OF BARBORA MOVED TO OTHER PLACE

FOUNTAIN MOVED AWAY FROM STREET AXIS
3. HISTORICAL PERPETUATION

Vokiečių street is rich in its history, all its layers are reflected in the proposed project. The former buildings are marked with paving blocks of a different direction and color.

The sculpture of Barbora is moved to the beginning of the street, here it will stand against the background of the Salomėja Neris school of the same era. Viewed from the town hall side, the street begins with a restored model of the historic Vokiečių Street, which will introduce visitors to the historical context of the place.

Archaeological excavations are planned for the whole street, in three places, in the conceptual stage they have been eroded irregularly on the pavement, during the construction works these places would be adjusted according to specific archeological findings.

The existing fountain is now installed directly on the historic street axis, proposal is to move it to a nearby public space. Next to Vokiečių Street there is a historical Žydų Street, which is also planned to be renovated, as Žydų Street is remote and access to it is not clearly expressed, we offer to install a model of the historical Žydų Street with a reference to the street itself on Vokiečių Street.
Each space formed on the site of a former building has its own character as if to tell a different story. In them, people can engage in different activities. When designing Vokiečių Street, we offer spaces next to existing cafes for these activities. In summer, they will have cozy terraces to ensure the privacy of customers, and in winter, they can house Christmas campuses or sales pavilions.

Part of the space is allocated for active leisure. There are special places to play basketball, outdoor equipment, outdoor table tennis and a children’s playground. In the center of Vokiečių Street, a multifunctional large space is planned, where events, concerts or outdoor cinema will take place in the warm season, and a skating rink will be located in the cold season.

In the space where the extension of Žydų Street and Vokiečių Street intersects, we suggest moving the fountain, which will delight passers-by during the warm season. In winter, when the fountain is out of operation, a Christmas tree can be built in its place.

In part of the spaces on Vokiečių Street, archeological expositions are installed - glass hatches in the pavement - as if they were a kind of windows to the past, through which views of the old basements or foundations of buildings found during archeological research can be opened. In the dark of the day, they will be illuminated, creating a cozy mysterious atmosphere.
SECTION THROUGH THE URBAN LIVING ROOM

CONTINUOUS OUTDOOR CAFE
Vokiečių Street is full of cafes, first of all according to the outdoor terrace areas of cafes provided on website by Vilnius City Municipality, each existing cafe was provided with a separate, open or partially closed terrace with a bar.

Most of the terraces are formed in former construction areas, which are surrounded by the relief element, thus, providing privacy and coziness to the visitors of the café. Taking into account the current situation and the world-famous campaign of Vilnius - continuous outdoor cafe, the nearby cafe can expand the area of its terraces in the whole zone of Vokiečių Street where there are hard surfaces, so the street would turn into a one giant cafe.
Pedestrians and cyclists are given priority in the management of Vokiečių Street. For the latter, a path is built on the north side of the street, safely separated from the carriageway. Pedestrians are given the entire historical paved part of Vokiečių Street. The part of the street reserved for cars is calmed traffic, leaving the minimum necessary number of parking spaces. Electric car charging stations are being installed. Bus stops are left at both ends of Vokiečių Street, ensuring convenient access and exit from Vokiečių Street.

Bicycle parking stands are installed in the central part. The entire Vokiečių street is designed according to a sustainable movement scheme, accessible to people with disabilities.
The historic street is being restored in the historic cobbled pavement. Both the street and the terraces for car traffic are made of blocks, different paving directions and shades are used to distinguish the areas of the former building.

The rest of the street is planted with grass, concrete grass mesh is used in places where a larger stream of people is expected.
All the existing trees are preserved, some of them appear in the areas of the former houses, which are based on a hard surface, so a grass mesh is formed around the trees. New trees are planted in the newly formed parts of the meadow. An important green element is the relief elevations with which partially closed spaces are formed around the cafes.

To maintain the overall color fabric, concrete grass mesh is made at the entrances to the houses, which is visually indistinguishable from grass.
The main street lighting will be provided with existing luminaires, some of which will be relocated according to the new street configuration.

Secondary lighting is formed with a led strip in the pavement, the contour of the strip coincides with the contour of the former building.
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