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Spaces of encounter: the 2004 Mostar Studio

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THE CENTER FOR MACRO PROJECTS AND DIPLOMACY
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

WORKING PAPER SERIES

VOLUME FIVE : SPRING 2005

POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION: RE-CONNECTING SITES, NATIONS, CULTURES

SPACES OF ENCOUNTER: THE 2004 MOSTAR STUDIO

The Center for Macro Projects and Diplomacy was established at the First Macro Conference held at Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island in April 2004.

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The Center also publishes the Macro Project Working Paper Series. All Working Papers are the product of faculty and student research at Roger Williams University that address an annual conference theme. Papers have been grouped by subject such as international relations, architecture and planning, engineering, management, law and finance.

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Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Re-Connecting Sites, Nations, Cultures

The Second Annual Conference of the Center for Macro Projects and Diplomacy
at Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island.

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SPACES OF ENCOUNTER: THE 2004 MOSTAR STUDIO

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-- Charles Hagenah & Hasan-Uddin Khan, RWU, April 2005

SPACES OF ENCOUNTER: THE 2004 MOSTAR STUDIO
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1. Mostar in Winter (L. Tuzlak)
2. The courtyard of the Lakisica House
3. Buildings display the scars of war
4. Graveyards from the conflict dot the urban fabric
5. Mostar's main bazaar street along the edge of the Neretva

The Studio

Introduction

The devastating war in Yugoslavia between 1992 and 1995 not only destroyed many cities but also divided ethnic and religious groups and created new states. The historic core of the city of Mostar that lies alongside the River Neretva in Bosnia-Herzegovina was extensively damaged. The Catholic-Croatian settlements on the west bank of the river were separated from the Muslim-Serbian settlements on the east bank with the destruction in November 1993 of the 16th Century Ottoman footbridge (Stari Most) that was a symbol of cultural unity.

The task of reconstruction of the historic core by local government and international agencies began in 1994, with a significant amount of the building restoration work coordinated by Dr. Amir Pasic. Pasic, who had worked on the revitalization of the core with the group Stari Grad in the early to mid-1980s, had been forced to flee to Istanbul where he worked. In 1994 he embarked on a ten year project, MOSTAR 2004, to work on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the city's historic core. By 1997 Pasic, funded by a number of international agencies, notably the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) and the World Monuments Fund (WMF) set up an organization in Mostar to work with the emerging government to plan for the reconstruction of the city. The office of the international High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, and the government continue to attempt to reunite the Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim communities that had coexisted there in peace over seven decades.

A number of restoration and rehabilitation projects have been undertaken including the rebuilding of the now-famous Stari Most under the aegis of the World Bank, which is also involved in infrastructure (water and sewage) projects. The first ten year phase of reconstruction ended in 2004 with the completion of a number of projects and the opening of the bridge on the 23rd of July. However, this first phase of reconstruction was only a beginning. The year 2005 marks an important moment in the history of the city since the war: the next phase is perhaps even more difficult and as important, as development agencies and countries increasingly focus on other parts of the world and funding becomes scarcer.

Spaces of Encounter

The process of reconstruction – political, educational, cultural, economic and physical – continues. The Roger Williams University graduate architecture studio took on the task of exploring and envisioning ways in which physical reconstruction could contribute to the well being and the bringing together people divided by the war in places and spaces that would promote interaction.

The notion of “Spaces of Encounter” was developed to encompass buildings, public places and activities that would contribute economically, socially and physically to the city and its future development. Attempts have already been made to provide spaces that fall within our conception of encounter, e.g. Pavarotti's War Childs Music Center, the French Photography exhibition center, and the upcoming project for the Gymnasium (school) to educate both Serbs and Croats under one roof. Other organizational changes include the combining of fire-fighters and the police.

Buildings themselves can be catalysts for growth, recently well illustrated by the Bilbao Guggenheim Museum which put the city on the map. Another example, dating from the 1950s, is Rockefeller Plaza and the buildings around it, arguably the most successful urban public space in the United States. Throughout history architecture has the power to capture the imagination and bring attention for investment. Buildings and places also have great symbolic value as the Stari Most, the emblem of the town (the equivalent of Paris' Eiffel Tower) became the target of the war to literally cleave asunder the ethnic groups that had inhabited the city by bombing the bridge even though it was only a footbridge.

In discussing the kinds of spaces to design the studio participants came up with several building types and activities that are described later in this report. It should be noted that the selected projects also considered their implications on transport systems, roads and infrastructure. The studio noted the impact of its projects and raised issues / possible approaches to them, but exploration of the broader issues remains beyond the scope of the architecture studio.

The role of finance and political decision-making may give the city its *raison d'être* and its sustainability but the sense of place is developed through its architecture. It is the vision of place through a city's form and architecture that is both a reflection of culture and an embodiment of societal values and aspirations. There is a need to conceive and redesign neighborhoods, districts and individual buildings related to place, climate, materials and culture.

Studio Work and Focus: The Boulevard

Reconstruction and conservation work to date has focused on the Historic City, located on the river's east bank. Some attention is being paid to the possible development to the north of the city for university and educational facilities (the subject of a 2003 Roger Williams University studio), and industrial development adjacent to the more modern city and along the road to Sarajevo.

Although the Stari Most is the symbolic division of the town the actual line of ethnic partition is the Boulevard on the west bank of the river. This area, and east of it to the river, saw perhaps the most intense bombing and destruction. It is the seam that needs the greatest attention in the city as a place of healing and of crossing boundaries. We selected sites around the Boulevard for our interventions, and also developed programs and building designs that could be a catalyst for building community.

In brief, the main work of studio was as follows:

- i. To become familiar with the history, cultures and architecture of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- ii. Explore the Mostar old city context - architecture and planning.
- iii. Developing concepts for "Spaces of Encounter": strategy for development, location, potentials, program and uses.

The studio was run from September to December 2004. It offered an opportunity to participate in the formulation of the best places along and adjacent to the Boulevard and architectural projects that can bring people together. The exercise is a way of visualizing options for decision-makers in the country, and to discuss these within a broad range of developmental and ethical issues.

We worked with individuals familiar with the Mostar projects– as listed in the beginning – during the semester to review progress and critique the work. Studios and workshops on Mostar have been conducted at several universities and institutions over the world in the past decade – in Istanbul, Sarajevo, New York City, Philadelphia, Bristol and Mostar itself. In some ways the studio built upon other studios that have been conducted at RWU in the past on the University of the Middle-East Project and the Mostar Studio of 2003.

We recognize the limitations of our expertise and approach, given the greater large-scale issues of political stability and social reconciliation, economic progress and industrial production in a place where unemployment is a major problem, education of both the very young and the youth, and infrastructure development, where road and rail links to the rest of the country, water supply and sewage treatment are health and quality of life issues.

On a broad level the work began to understand the dynamics of the process of reconstruction of Mostar as an example of an ongoing worldwide situation, which will be with us in the foreseeable future. This studio is part of a longer term academic enquiry – it is focused on architectural design as a way of entering the broader and extraordinarily important discourse for peace.



Context

Bosnia-Herzegovina

The name of the country is taken from two provinces of the former Yugoslavia. This centrally located nearly landlocked republic covers 51,200 sq. km., with Bosnia occupying four-fifths of the land. Bosnia-Herzegovina is bordered by the Adriatic Sea and Croatia to the northwest and west and Serbia and Montenegro to the east and southeast. The terrain is mostly mountainous with extensive forest cover and valleys. The south is flatter with arable land. A number of rivers flow to the north towards Croatia, the largest being the Sava, including the Neretva which cuts through Mostar and flows into the Adriatic Sea.

A continental climate prevails over much of the country, with very hot summers and cold rainy winters. The south has warm summers and short mild rainy winters.

A Brief History

Centuries before the Ottoman conquest of the Balkans, Bosnia was a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society. Bosnia was annexed to the Ottoman Empire as a province in 1463. During the subsequent period of occupation, the Ottoman government transformed the built environment through projects that facilitated trade, travel, and the expedient movement of their military force to the far reaches of the empire. These building projects included infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, and community facilities, such as mosque complexes and their encompassing community facilities.

Bosnia became part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1878. Sweeping changes in urban planning, infrastructure and communications followed this association. These improvements facilitated further growth and urbanization, linking Bosnia to the rest of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

In the 20th century Bosnia-Herzegovina has been in an almost continual state of political change. The period encompassing the two World Wars was marked by nationalism and violence. The Serbian regime that emerged after The Great War was replaced by the influence of the Nazis during World War II. After the war the Partisans, led by Josip Broz Tito, emerged as the socialist government of Yugoslavia, enjoying a period of peace. With the collapse of the Socialist state old nationalistic tendencies were resurrected, as did violence between ethnic groups.

Economy

Bosnia-Herzegovina ranked next Macedonia as the poorest republic in the former Yugoslavia federation. Although almost all agriculture has been in private hands, farms have been small and inefficient, and the republic has been a net importer of food. In the Socialist economic structure military industries were developed with the result that the area hosted a large share of Yugoslavia's defense industry. The bitter inter-ethnic warfare in Bosnia caused production to plummet by some 80% between 1990 and 1995, unemployment to soar, and human misery to multiply. With peace output recovered but GDP remains below the 1990 level.

*Opposite: Satellite Image of the City of Mostar
(Courtesy of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture)*

Timeline



<http://www.mostar.ba>

Etching of Old Bridge- Mostar (14th century)



<http://www.mostar.ba>

14th Century Etching of Herzeg- Stjepan



<http://members.lycos.co.uk/Hornet/index-21.html>

Former Yugoslav Leader Josip Broz Tito



www.edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001

Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic

From Pre-History to Modernity

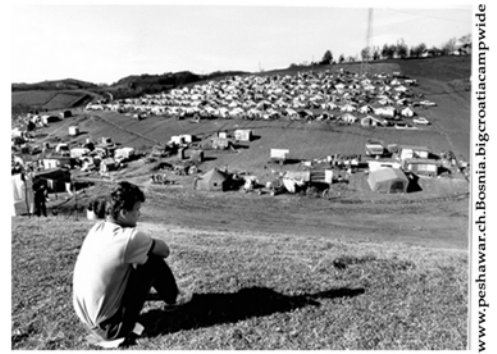
- 1200 BCE The Illyrians (Ancestors of modern Albanians) arrive in the Balkan Region.
- 400 BCE The Celts settle in the Northern Balkans.
- 300 BCE Romans start to expand into the Balkans, which were inhabited by Thracian, Illyrian and Celtic Tribes.
- 200 BCE Romans conquer Illyrians and establish colony in Dalmatia.
- 100 BCE The Illyrian Wars bring most of Balkan coastline under Roman control.
- 10 CE Entire southern Balkans comes under Roman rule.
- 100 CE Height of Roman Empire.
- 300 CE The lands that will later become Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina become part of Rome.
The lands that will become Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia become part of Byzantium.
- 500 CE The Illyrians are driven into the mountains.
- 600 CE Slavic Tribes begin settlement of the Balkans.
- 800 CE Saints Cyril and Methodius bring Orthodoxy to the Serbs.
- 900 CE Serbia becomes an independent state of Byzantium.
Bosnia becomes independent of Serbia.
- 1000 CE Byzantium regains power over Serbia.
- 1100 CE Serbia becomes an independent state.
The first monasteries are built in Serbia.
- 1300 CE Adriatic coast of Croatia comes under Venetian influence.
- 1400 CE The Ottoman Empire takes power in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Venice takes the Dalmatian portion of Croatia
- 1566 CE Mostar Bridge built.
- 1700 CE Napoleon conquers Southern Croatia.
- 1800 CE After brief French domination, all Croatian lands come under Austro-Hungarian rule.
Serbia regains its independence from the Ottoman Empire.
Austria-Hungary occupies Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The 20th Century

- 1908 Austria-Hungary annexes Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- 1912 First Balkan War.
- 1913 Second Balkan War.
- 1914 Serbian nationalist assassinates heir to Austro-Hungarian Empire in Sarajevo, sparking World War I.
- 1918 World War I ends, resulting in the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires.
The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes is created.
- 1921 Constitution for Kingdom of Yugoslavia was passed.
- 1929 Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes is renamed Yugoslavia.
The Parliamentary system is abolished in favor of a royal dictatorship.
- 1933 Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.
- 1941 United States enters World War II.
Yugoslavia joins the Tripartite Alliance. Nazi Germany invades Yugoslavia from Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania.
Croatia falls under Nazi influence under the Ustase.
Ethnic cleansing of Serbs begins. Serbs respond with Chetnik guerilla forces of their own.
- 1943 Proclamation of Communist Yugoslavia.
- 1944 The Partisans, aided by the Soviets and the British, push Nazis out of Yugoslavia.
- 1945 World War II ends, Tito comes to power and establishes the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia get status as republics within Yugoslavia.
- 1948 Tito breaks with Stalin.
Universal Declaration on Human Rights enacted.
- 1967 The National Movement in Croatia enjoys a resurgence.
- 1980 Tito dies.
- 1986 Slobodan Milosevic becomes head of the Serbian communist Party
- 1988 Ethnic Albanians protest against Serbs in Kosovo.
- 1989 Serbs gather at the site of the Battle of Kosovo to commemorate its 600th anniversary. President Slobodan Milosevic, recently elected, uses the occasion to promote Serbian nationalism and strip Kosovo of all autonomy.

Political Unrest

- 1990 The Yugoslav Communist Party splits along ethnic lines. Deadly riots in Kosovo result in Yugoslav Army intervention. Multi-party system adopted in Bosnia-Herzegovina republic. Slobodan Milosevic of the Socialist Party is elected President by a landslide. The Bosnian legislature adopts constitutional amendments declaring Bosnia-Herzegovina a democratic state with equality for all its ethnic groups.
- 1991 Milosevic orders a crackdown on opposition protests in Serbia. Bosnian Serbs begin a war in a quest for their own ethnically pure republic. Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina unsuccessfully propose a Yugoslav commonwealth of sovereign republics. Croat and Muslim parties in Bosnia unite against Bosnian Serbs and plan for a referendum on the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Bosnian Muslim government declares itself a sovereign state.
- 1992 Bosnian Serbs set up their own Parliament and local militias. The fighting in Croatia expands to Bosnia. United States recognizes Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as independent, sovereign states. Bosnian Serb forces start to drive Muslims out of small villages; many of the refugees flee to the larger cities of Zepa, Srebrenica, Tuzla and Sarajevo. Siege of Sarajevo begins. Serbia expelled from the United Nations.
- 1993 U.S. begins airlift of aid supplies to Bosnia. War between Muslims and Croats in Bosnia. Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic proposes several partition deals that would leave Serbs about half of Bosnia. The Bosnian Muslim government rejects this plan.
- 1994 A Bosnian Serb mortar shell kills 68 people in a Sarajevo market. The attack increases international attention to Bosnia and western nations threaten air strikes if the Bosnian Serbs do not stop shelling Sarajevo. NATO shoots down four Serb aircraft.



View of refugee camp in Croatia.



Apartment Building in Ruin

Conflict

- 1995 Fighting escalates in Bosnia. In what is considered the largest massacre since World War II, as many as 8,000 Bosnian Muslims are killed by Bosnian Serbs under the command of Ratko Mladic. NATO airstrikes against the Bosnian Serbs. Serbian forces withdraw weapons from around Sarajevo. The Dayton Peace Agreement is signed in Paris. The plan gives 51% of the Bosnian territory to Muslim-Croatian Federation and 49% to Bosnian Serbs. It also authorizes a right for refugees to return to pre-war homes and an international force (IFOR) to implement the peace plan.
- 1996 The International War Crimes tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia opens in the Hague.
- 1998 UN calls for a ceasefire in Kosovo. NATO issues ultimatum to Serbia to stop violence in Kosovo. UN condemns massacres of Kosovar Albanians by Serbian troops.
- 1999 Violence escalates in Kosovo. Rambouillet Peace Talks held in France between Serbs and Albanians. Kosovar Albanians conditionally accept cease-fire and draft accord in exchange for broad autonomy for Kosovo. International monitors withdraw from Kosovo. Serbia continues to reject any talk of NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo. NATO launches air war against Yugoslav military targets. Hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanian refugees flee to Albania, Macedonia, and Montenegro. The NATO air campaign officially over, as Serb withdrawal from Kosovo completed.
- 2000 Yugoslav President Milosevic adjusts the constitution to reduce the power of Montenegro in the legislature and to allow himself to run for reelection
- 2001 Slobodan Milosevic charged with genocide at the Hague.
- 2002 Former Bosnian-Serb leader Biljana Plavsic admits to committing crimes against humanity during the 1992-1995 war.



UN Peacekeepers in Sarejevo.



War Crimes Trial at the Hague, The Netherlands.

Culture

Arts and Literature

Like other countries in the area Bosnia-Herzegovina is known for its folk dances and costumes that reflect regional tales and traditions. Traditional instruments accompanying dances include drums, violins, flutes and lyres. Classical and pop music continue to flourish.

Bosnia was also one of the most prolific centers of film production with a number of award-winning directors. A brief burst of films in the 1960s, known as the Black Wave, dissected power and corruption but a state clampdown resulted in a return to action thrillers. Less overtly political cinema emerged after Tito's death in 1980, notably the work of Emir Kusturica (*Do You Remember Dolly Bell?*, *When Father Was Away on Business*), which achieved worldwide acclaim and numerous awards. The war and siege of Sarajevo between 1992 – 1995 curbed film production but inspired innumerable short films and documentaries about the conflict. A group called the Sarejevo Group of Authors (SaGA) made films that served as testimony to the lives, suffering and human spirit of ordinary people.

The country has a rich literary tradition going back to the Middle Ages, beginning in monasteries and churches. The novelist Ivo Andric won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1961. His works such as *The Travnik Chronicle* and *Bridge on the Drina* examine the intermingled histories of Muslim and Orthodox cultures in Bosnian towns. Modern Bosnian writers have reflected on their personal struggles of living amidst the conflict

Architecture and Urbanism

The Ottoman influence in the country was felt from the 16th century onwards. Planning and architecture were derived from Anatolia. Settlements were organized into neighborhoods (mahalas) of cul-de-sacs, and integrated into the urban fabric and the bazaars or marketplaces. Each mahala had its own spirit which contributed to its individual identity and were usually named after the area's mosque. As a result the number of mahalas correlates to the number of mosques in a city. Though named after the neighborhood mosque, mahalas were a housing pattern used by all people regardless of religious beliefs or ethnicity.

Much of famous Ottoman architecture centers on the mosque which plays an important role in Muslim society. The ottoman mosque consists of a large prayer space covered on a large dome, often surrounded by smaller domes and subservient spaces. The tall pencil-like minaret which is visible from afar is a distinctive feature. In the Balkans the hip roofed mosque is also a common typology.

An integral part of the mosque complex is often the mekteb, primary school and the medresa or religious school. Mektebs were usually small buildings consisting of one or two rooms. Medresas were located in close proximity to the more prominent mosques of a city. A medresa usually consisted of one or two classrooms and up to a dozen rooms for boarding students.



View of the Main Bazaar Street in Mostar

The bazaar is a vital component of the Islamic town, located along a major road or river crossing and organized as a plaza surrounded by smaller streets with shops, workshops, mosques and caravanserais (hotels).



View of the Stari Most, Mostar's Signature Ottoman-Era Footbridge

Bridges were constructed mainly of wood or stone and adhered to one of two typologies; stereothomic vaults in stone and tectonic wooden structures. These bridges represent the investment in infrastructure that has occurred throughout the centuries, as successive conquering empires strove to create physical links between their administrative centers of power and their holdings.



Courtyard Space in an Ottoman House

The typical Ottoman dwelling is composed of three parts; the living quarters, the open-to sky courtyard and the garden. The living quarters are divided into the haremluk, the private family quarters, and the salamlik, the reception and guest area. The open-to sky courtyard contains the kitchen and pantry, toilet, wood shed, stable, drinking fountain or well, and sometimes a flower garden. The garden can consist of agricultural and pleasure gardens.

Mostar

Mostar is one of the most heavily populated areas of the country with an ethnically diverse and divided population – Muslim 40%, Orthodox 31%, Roman Catholic 15%, Protestant 4%, Other 10%. Historically Mostar had a majority Croat population, now the city is largely divided into east (Croat and Muslim) and west.

Mostar's history was first recorded in the 15th century as an Ottoman settlement developed. Being at the juncture of two parts of Herzegovina it gained strategic and commercial importance. The old bridge (see text below), sited at a narrow point over the Neretva River replaced the old bridge and two guard towers were built. The town takes its name from the 'mostari' (bridge keepers) lodged there. The town developed in the immediate vicinity of the bridge.

By the beginning of the 17th century there were 24 mahala with 22 mosques, many of which still exist. Near Stari Most is the market, Carska Carsija, the artisans square (now the First of May Square) in which decrees from the Ottoman emperor would be read and where fairs and religious festivities would occur.

The town was often attacked by the Venetians, especially during the War of Candia in 1652. In 1683 the Polish army started anti-Turkish insurgencies forcing the Mostaris to allow the construction of an Orthodox Church in 1833 and a Catholic church in 1864. The Ottoman period of Mostar ended in 1878 with the takeover by the Austro-Hungarian Empire which lasted until 1918.

The years between 1941 and 1945 were those of the struggle for liberation leading to the establishment of the Yugoslavia republic. During the rebuilding that followed, the city expanded to the west of the river and its population tripled.

The 1992-1994 confrontation between the Muslim and Christian populations, the Serbs and the Bosniacs, resulted in many deaths and the loss of many important buildings in Mostar, including the Stari Most.

In the summer of 1994 a cease fire was achieved and the European Union Administration of Mostar (EUAM), headed by Hans Koschnick, established. Mostar was structured into six municipalities, governed by a joint city administration. Following elections the EUAM office was transformed into the Office of the Special envoy, until its transformation into the Regional Office of the High Representative in Mostar in 1997, headed currently by Paddy Ashdown.

Economy

With the intention to expand into the Balkans, Austria invested in economic development of its territory including a railroad that connected Mostar to Sarajevo to the north and Dubrovnik to the south. Air services connected Mostar to other cities in the country. Much of the infrastructure was destroyed in the civil war and is slowly being restored with outside help. from a centrally directed to a free enterprise economy. Since 2002 an Economic Development Strategy and Plan has been developed for the city.

Six Key Themes from the Economic Development Strategy

Developed by the European Union and the Mostar City Administration

1. Changing the culture: encouraging a business-friendly environment;
2. Employment growth: encouraging new business, helping local firms to grow and attracting new inward investors;
3. Developing a sound labor market: ensuring local residents acquire marketable skills and have equal access to jobs;
4. Sectoral development: achieving growth in certain key economic sectors;
5. Urban renewal: making Mostar a better place to live and work;
6. A continuing strategy: economic development is an iterative process.

Architecture

The Stari Most (Old Bridge) footbridge, a masterpiece of Ottoman Baroque architecture, was built on the orders of the Ottoman Sultan Suleman the Magnificent in 1557 and completed in 1566. It was designed by the architect Khairuddin, a disciple of the great Sinan. The bridge has one stone arch that spans 28.7 meters. The supporting vault is 4m wide and some 20m above the water. The bridge is of local limestone, cut with such great precision that no mortar was used. The stones were attached to each other by iron clamps and then filled with lead. The towers on either side housed a garrison of 160 soldiers.

The Stari Most was, and continues to be, a meeting place for the townspeople. For as long as anyone can remember, young men have been diving from the bridge, the twenty-meter jumps marking their transition from childhood into manhood. Since 1990, the ritual has become an annual international event with divers from all over the world competing.

The bazaar in Mostar, for example, was developed during the construction of the Stari Most (Gate Keeper) when three donors commissioned over 150 shops and other neighborhood facilities such as mosques, hamams (bathhouses), medresas (schools), warehouses and water supply infrastructure. Shops lined both sides of the streets and were small, built of wood and stone, supporting a stone-tiled roof. Larger shop buildings were two stories tall with the upper floor used for living or storage.

Project Phasing

In planning for *Spaces of Encounter* the student work was divided into three phases – the first consisted of master planning along the Boulevard, the second of developing proposals for phasing and economic activities, and the final for individual building designs.

Next, the students considered the kinds of building projects and activities that would be needed to act as generators of growth and provide places for activities that would help bring disparate peoples together. These buildings were characterized as tourism development, economic generation, education, housing, arts and community facilities, and a phasing plan suggested. These ideas were discussed with a number of “resource persons” including Amir Pasic and Lejla Tuzlak from Mostar, Professors Judith Bing and Brooke Harrington, and Jon Calame all of who have worked on the architecture and planning of the city.

Projects were tested for their acceptability in the city community and each student focused on a project to design individually. The following pages give a brief overview of the student work, presented as scenarios that could be pursued. Some projects occupy the same ground and may be seen as possible options. It should be noted that the schemes are all at their conceptual design phase, but have been programmed for their intended activity and size and provide an image and possibility that can be taken for funding possibilities and further development.

PHASE I a – (1 to 5 years): Tourism and Economic Generation

The Boulevard design, Public open spaces and River Promenade, Signature Restaurant, Movie Theatre, Crafts Center and Sales point

PHASE I b – (1 to 5 years): Educational buildings

Expansion of the Gymnasium (High School), Sports Facilities, Children’s Day Care

PHASE I c – (2 to 5 years): Incubator Offices

Phase II a – (5 to 10 years): Housing, Apartments

PHASE II b – (5 to 10 years): Market and Commercial space

Open Weekly/Daily Marketplace, Shops, Completion of the Promenade

PHASE III a – (7 to 12 years): Arts - North Boulevard Plaza redesign

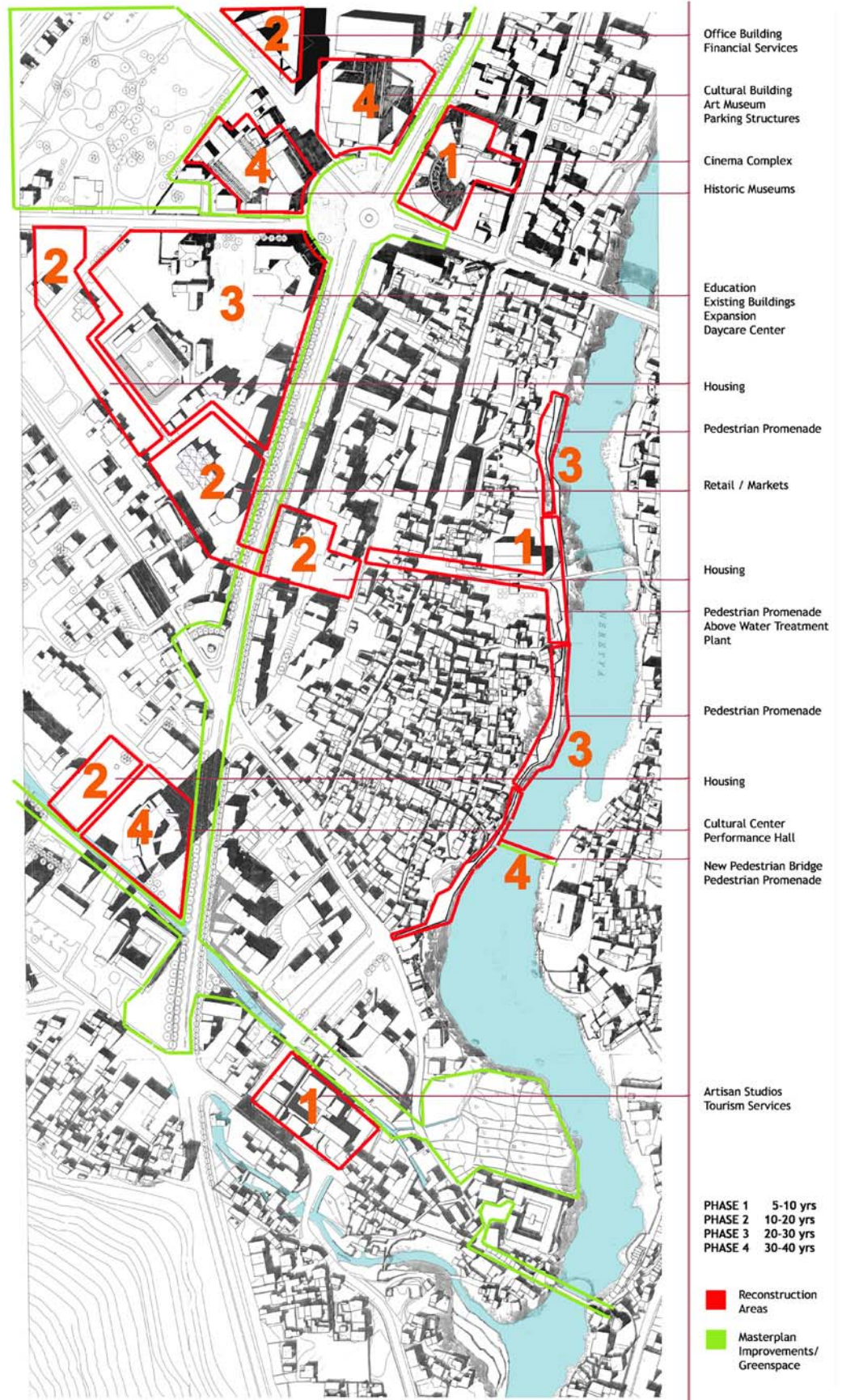
Arts Museum and Gallery, Museum of the History of Mostar

PHASE III b – (10 to 12 years): Community Services

Bus Station, Hotel

PHASE IV – (10 to 15 years): Arts Facilities in the South Boulevard

Performing Arts Theatre, Housing



MACRO STUDIO
 MOSTAR - BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA

PHASING OVER TIME

Boulevard Area Master Plan

Consideration of the Boulevard as current divider between Muslim and Christian communities led to the concept of crossing the wide roadway and experiencing walking and driving along it. The first phase of the plan calls for a redesign of the road and interchanges and development of green spaces that would foster economic growth and provide a meaningful experience that would allow for all people of the city to interact. This would also begin to establish the infrastructure needed to accept new physical development: this is discussed later in this section. (This part was a joint exercise between the students and the instructors.) The public spaces developed in this way would instill civic pride and emotional confidence in the future growth of the city.

A vital component of the proposal is the pedestrian movement along the Boulevard and across the River Neretva.

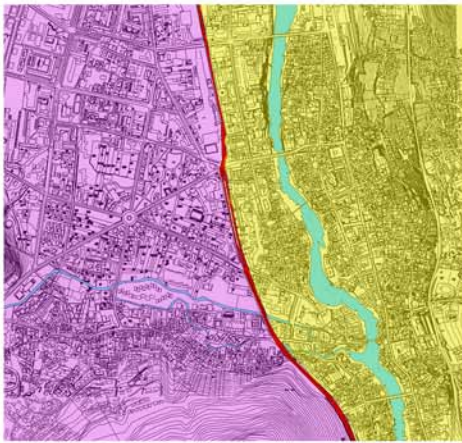
The Boulevard would be enhanced by planting trees along its sides, creating a pedestrian-friendly environment with a wide sidewalk and small plazas on its west side and a sidewalk on its east. The road would have redesigned intersections and traffic calming measures would also be taken, such as narrowing the street, taking traffic calming measures and creating a new north-south axis to the west of the Boulevard through the newer part of the city. In Phase III, the rotary to the north of the Boulevard that leads to the vehicular bridge that provides a connection across the river would also be redesigned to coincide with development around it.

The major tourist areas lie on the eastern bank of the River Neretva, although there has been more recent restaurant development on the west bank parallel to the river. To the north, the existing footbridge provides the main crossing and to the south the Stari Most provides the link, with substantial restaurant, discothèque and shopping development on either side.

A new pedestrian promenade along the western bank of the river is proposed, which would enhance the pedestrian experience along the river. Consequently, the promenade itself would also add value to new developments on the western side of the Neretva and provide a connection to the Boulevard.

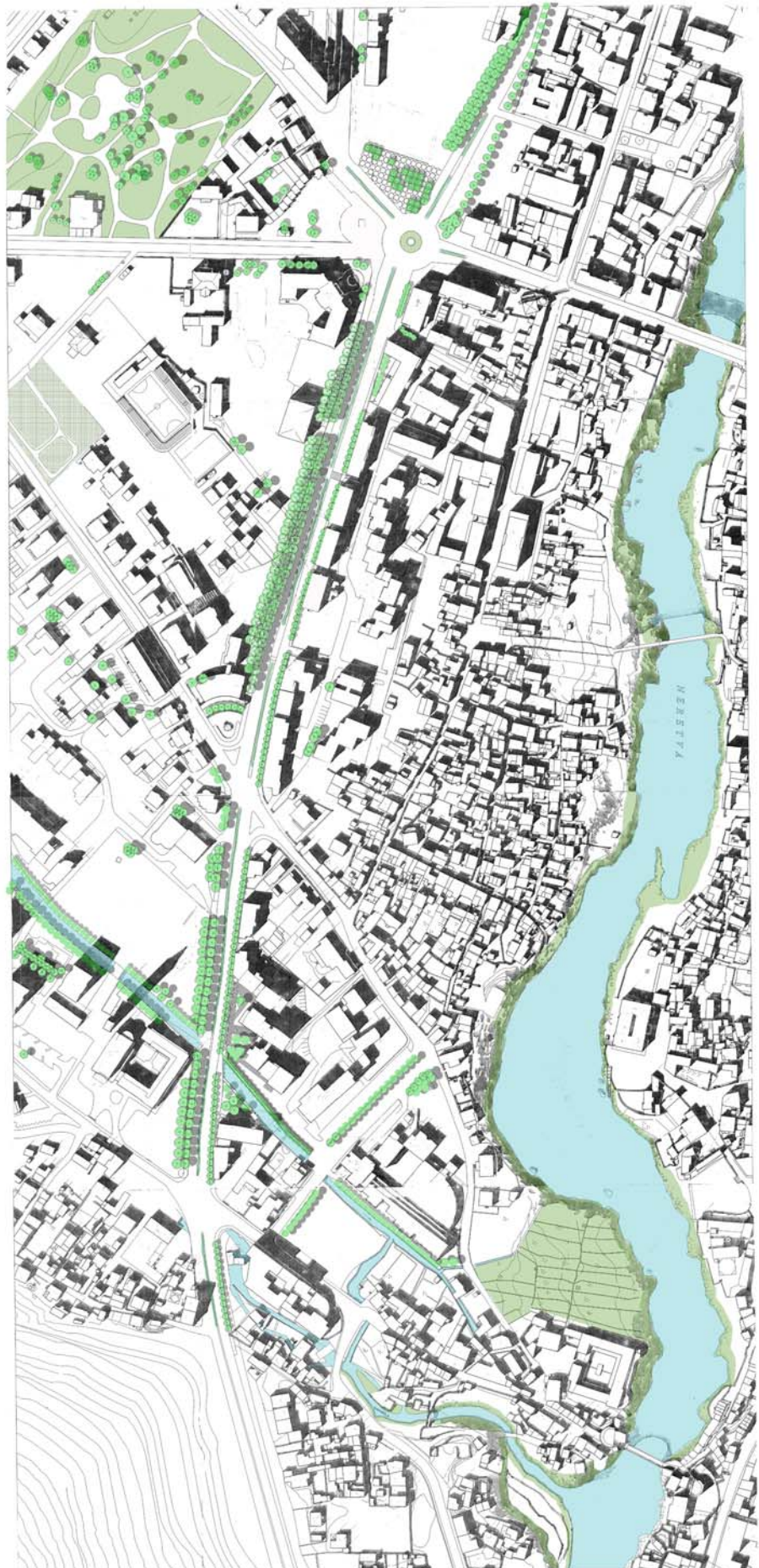


Aerial View of the Boulevard



Boulevard As Current Ethno-Religious Boundary

- Christian Area
- Muslim Area
- The Boulevard



Phase I

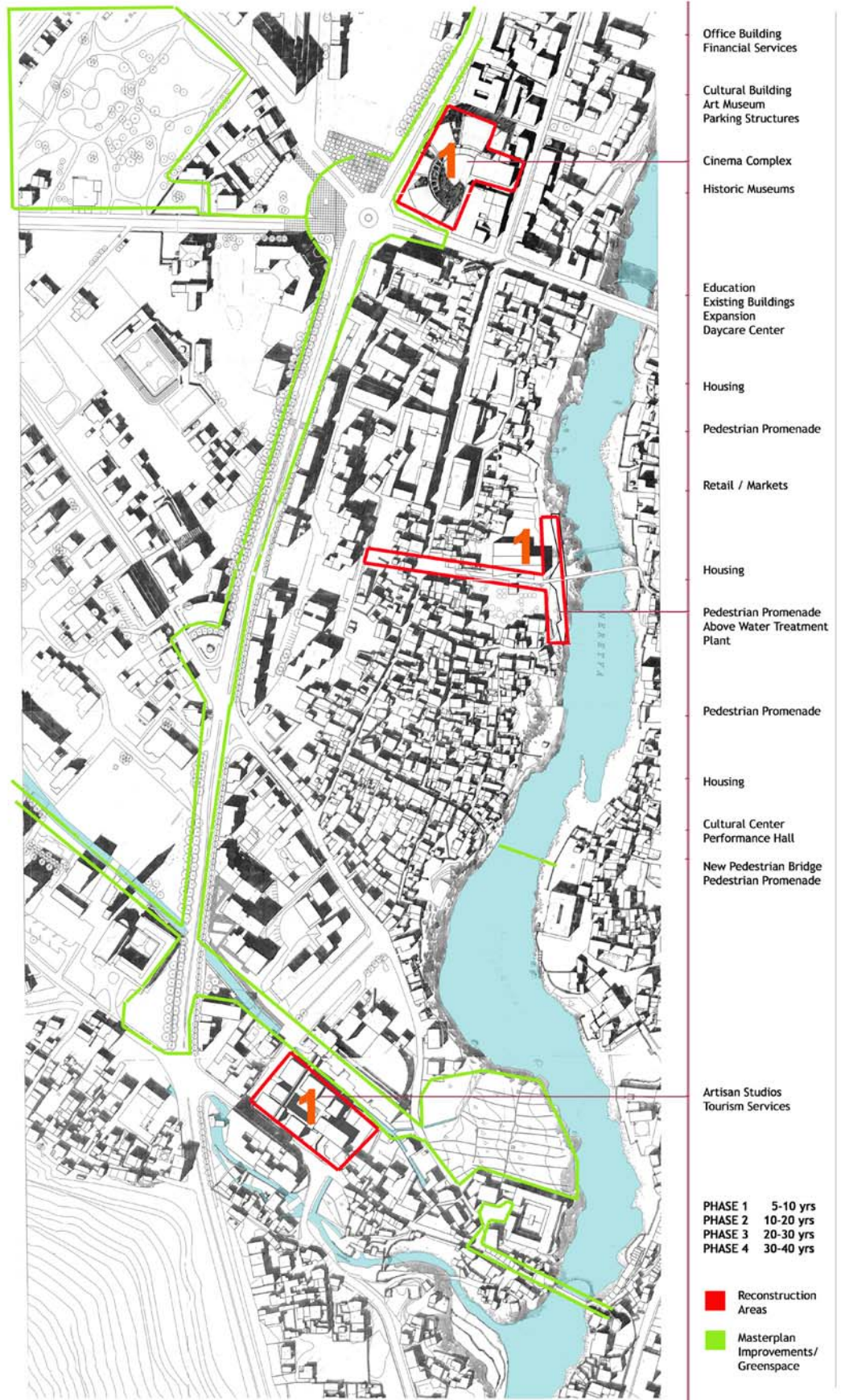
Tourism, Economic Generation and Education

Perhaps the most urgent need in Mostar is for the revival of its economic base as unemployment remains very high. Besides industrial development on the outskirts of the city (aluminum plants, wineries, etc.) the city center itself needs revenue generating activities. The most often cited niche that the old city and central area could occupy is that of tourism, both national and regional, and international. People stop in Mostar, usually only for a day on their way to the Adriatic coast, to see the famous Stari Most. There is very little more, besides the souvenir shops and restaurants to keep them in the city which does have two large and several small hotels. There are a number of discothèques and occasional events that draw the city's population over the weekend even though bus connections to the surrounding towns is limited.

The activities proposed in the first phase of development of this area focuses on providing jobs and tourist facilities. A movie theater complex is proposed around the North Boulevard. Anchoring the other end of the Boulevard would be an Artisan Center, which would provide a place for the production and sales of handcrafted goods. These activities would be connected by improvements to the Boulevard itself.

An incubator office building, to the west of the Boulevard would provide space for start-up businesses, temporary office accommodation and perhaps encourage the growth of a computer outsourcing business. The selected site currently houses a bombed-out ten storey building to be replaced by the tall incubator block.

Part of Phase I relates to education, which is a stated government priority. The Gymnasium, once one of the most famous middle and high schools in the country, is being brought back into prominence. It is a facility where the reintegration of young Serbs and Croats has begun. Although both groups are beginning to occupy the same building they hold classes separately. Creating areas and facilities that they can share, for example a swimming pool, gymnasium and other sports would assist this process. Facilities for child care in an adjacent Child Care Center would provide a basic service to the population. Hence an extension to the existing facilities would not only supplement the educational environment but also could create places of encounter.



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PHASING OVER TIME

Phase II

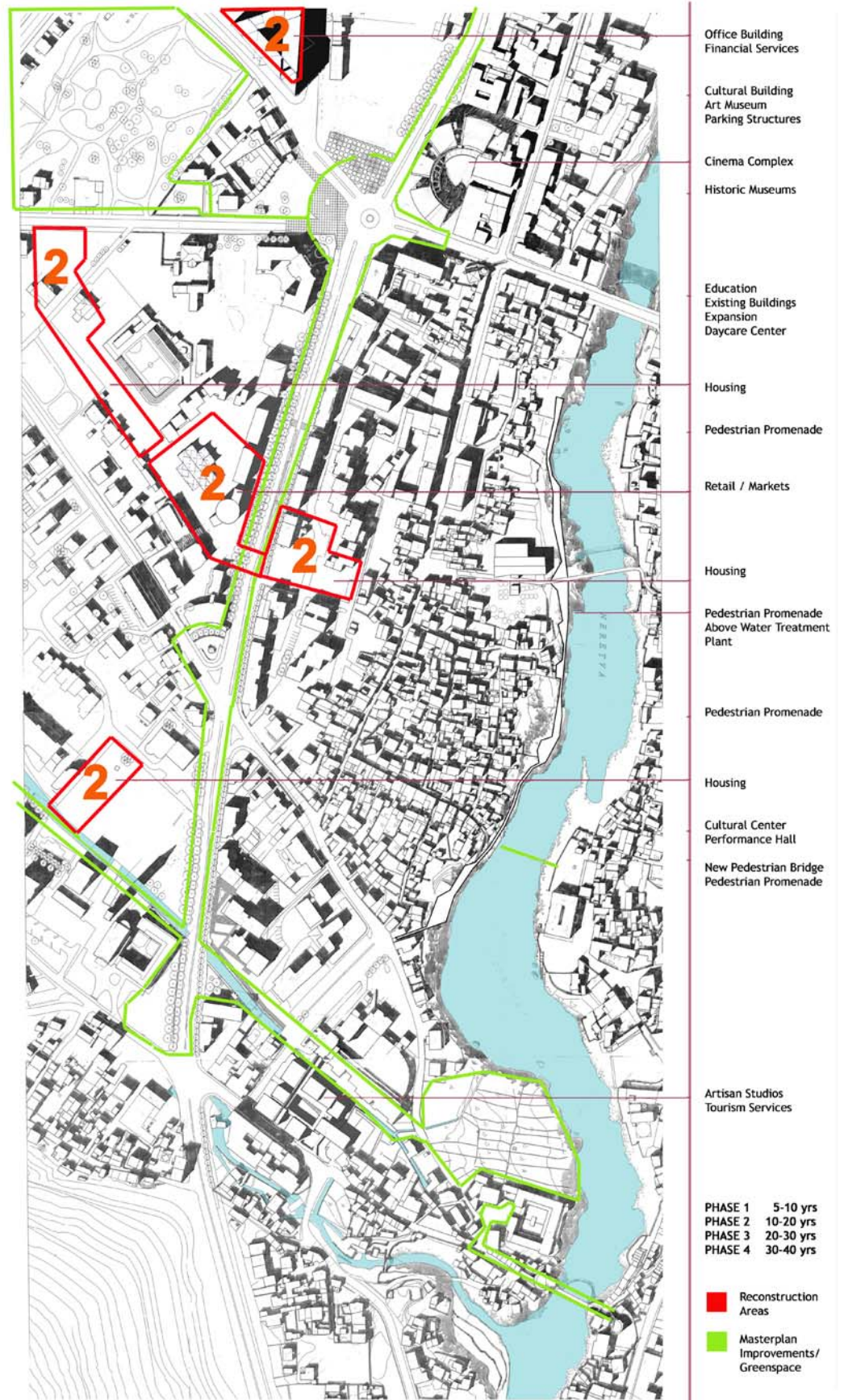
Market / Commercial Area and Housing

As the basic town infrastructure is put into place and income-generating facilities are developed in Phase I, the commercial base of the city could be expanded. On the West bank the pedestrian promenade and new restaurant off the footbridge creates an enhanced pedestrian circuit to the Boulevard. Our proposal also establishes an east-west link to the Boulevard just south of the existing mid-rise housing blocks. Commercial development along this new pedestrian path is proposed, with the possibility of the development of high-rise apartment buildings. The apartment development could also bridge the Boulevard to other commercial and housing, thus animating both sides of the street.

Currently there is a weekly small, open market on the east bank of the Neretva, but it is both too small for the city and difficult to service. To the west of the Boulevard and south of the education complex additional mid-rise housing development is proposed, focused around an open marketplace. This larger marketplace could serve the inhabitants of both the new Socialist-planned city and the old city

Other low rise housing units could also be inserted into the urban fabric along east-west pedestrian and vehicular streets, linking the Boulevard area to the 20th century development to the west.

All the above proposals could be well serviced by movement arteries and parking that would accommodate the new development. One possibility would be to provide underground parking under the marketplace – although an expensive proposition at this juncture, it could possibly pay for itself in the long run as the area develops.



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PHASING OVER TIME

Phase III

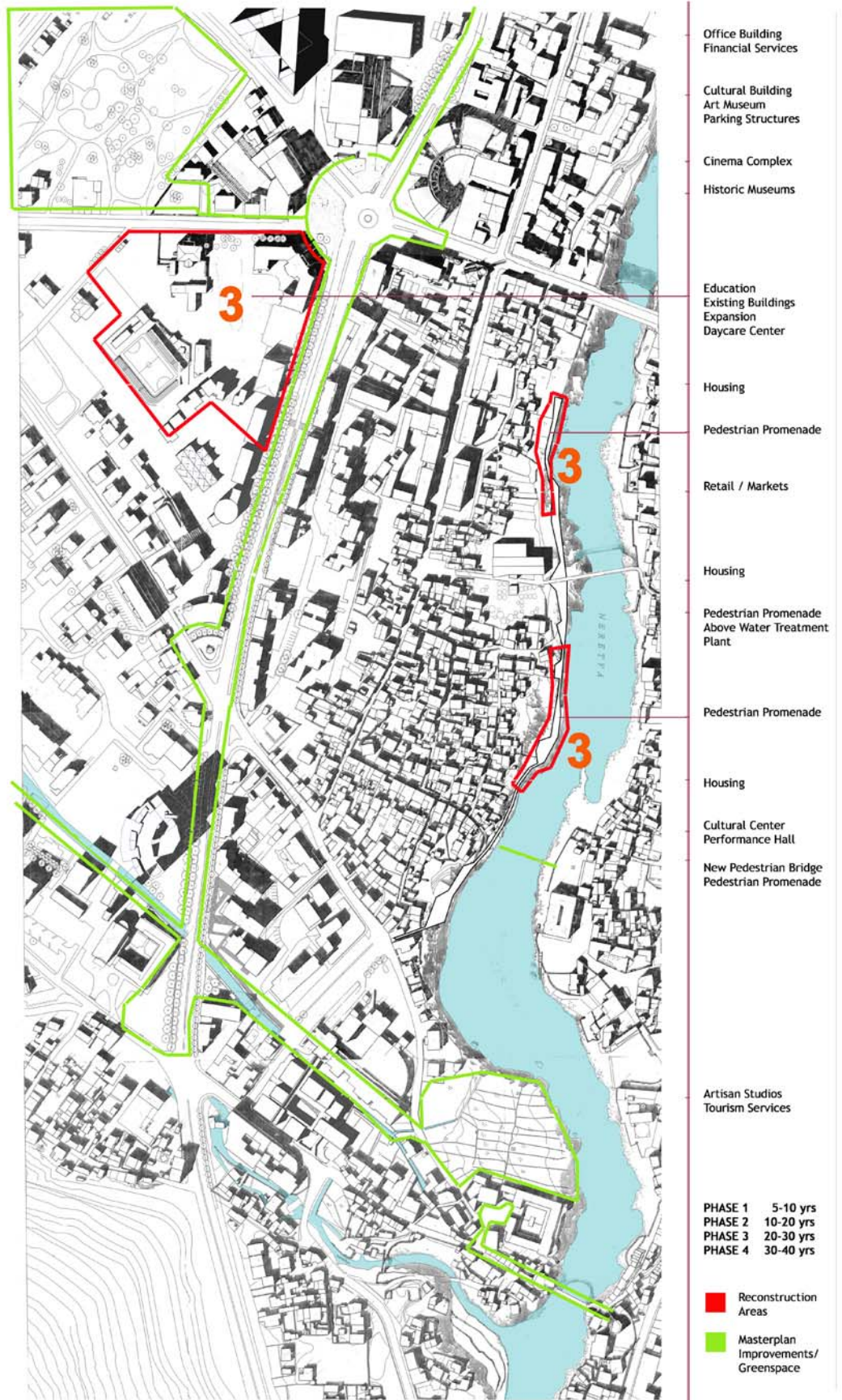
Arts Area North

In Phase III the focus shifts back to the northern end of the Boulevard at the east-west crossroads which leads to the vehicular bridge that connects the sides of the River Neretva.

The rotary would be redesigned to modify the Boulevard's alignment and to create a central open green space, perhaps with a memorial / statue in the center. This area would also tie together the proposed arts facilities creating a lively area that would be used both during the day and night by all ethnic and religious groups.

Two arts facilities are envisaged to compliment the cinema complex built in Phase I. A major contemporary art gallery & museum would form the "head" of the Boulevard. This signature gallery could, like Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, trigger the area's revitalization. (Currently, a major theatre was to be built here but the project has been abandoned due to lack of funds and inappropriate phasing with other development.) To the west of the gallery, at the end of the east-west bridge connector, another museum dedicated to the history of Mostar city would be built.

Both these institutions would also be well located very near the educational facilities and could be used by visitors, and Mostari children and adults alike. All the facilities in the area would be served by a new five or six storey parking garage. This building would relate in scale to the existing office building to the north of it and the other taller buildings in the area.



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PHASING OVER TIME

Phase IV

Community / Tourism Zones

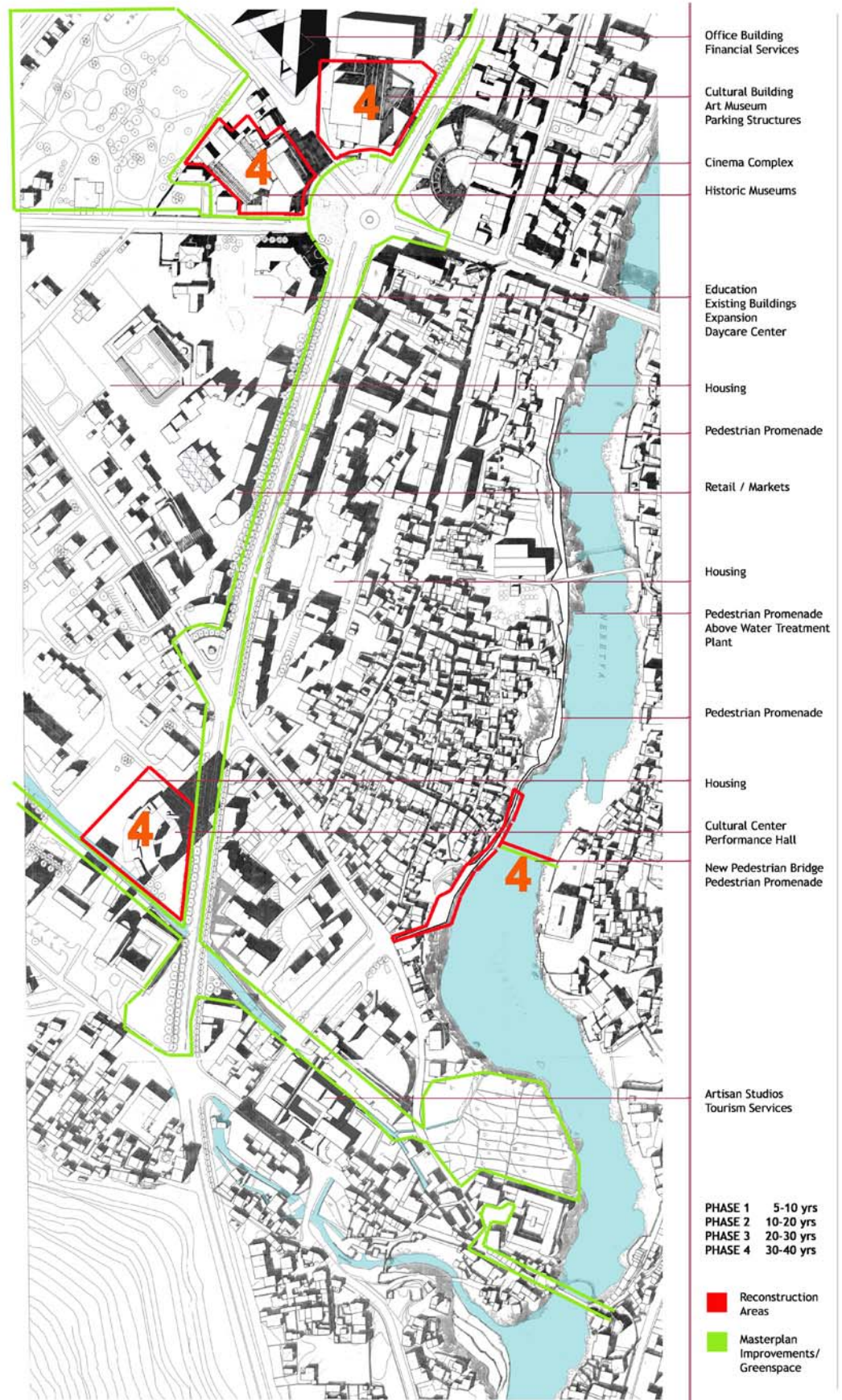
The large Catholic Church owns the land to its north along the Boulevard. In partnership with a private developer or the city itself, the Church could consider development of the land for cultural and community purposes. Several proposals were considered and different projects envisaged for the site.

Two projects place large multi-purpose theatres on the land. One of them integrates the theatre with housing. A third scheme proposes a high-rise upscale businessman's hotel with attached conference facilities. This hotel would be different from the more tourist oriented one currently being constructed in the area closer to the bridge. Project feasibility needs to be tested, but as the area is near the bridge and connects the eastern part of the city to the development along the Boulevard. These uses would compliment the current restaurants and housing in the vicinity.

Another proposal keeps the surface of the site open as public gathering space, which would also accommodate large events such as concerts, festivals, markets and perhaps even political gatherings. Under this open landscaped space would be a much needed parking structure. The project would also house a bus station that is conceived as part of a city-wide public transport system. This transportation system would provide connections to points within the city, as well as connect to adjacent cities, as there is an existing interstate bus station near the train station.

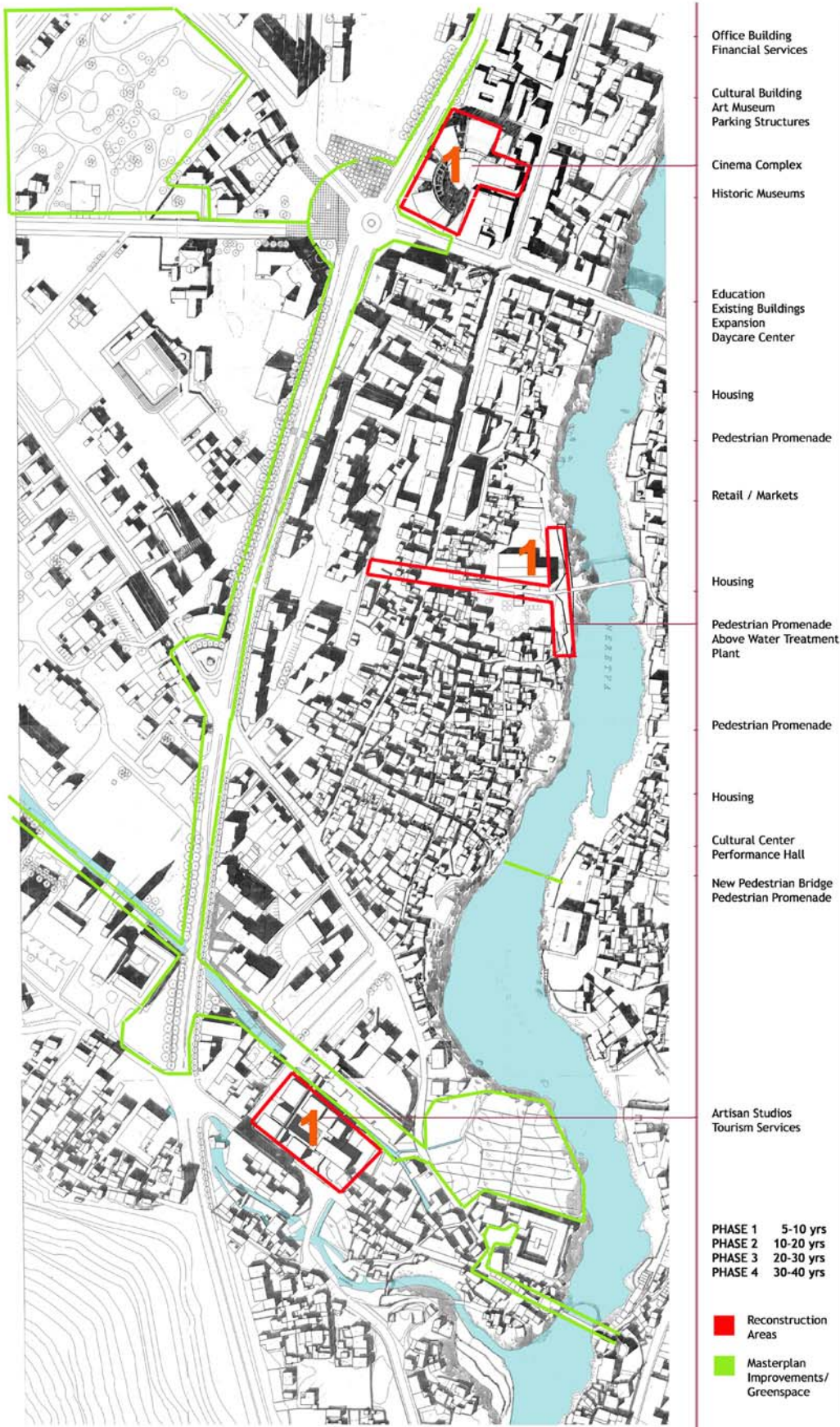
All of the schemes also create walkways from the existing housing on the east of the city to the Stari Most along the Radobolja, one of the tributaries that feeds into the River Neretva. It is envisioned that around the time of this phase that the Neretva River pedestrian promenade would be completed, thus linking all parts of the central city areas in a pedestrian friendly environment.

The four phases of targeted development activities would encourage entrepreneurial investment in the area on sites in the area not proposed within the studio projects, completing the revitalization of the Boulevard district for all the city's inhabitants.



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PHASING OVER TIME



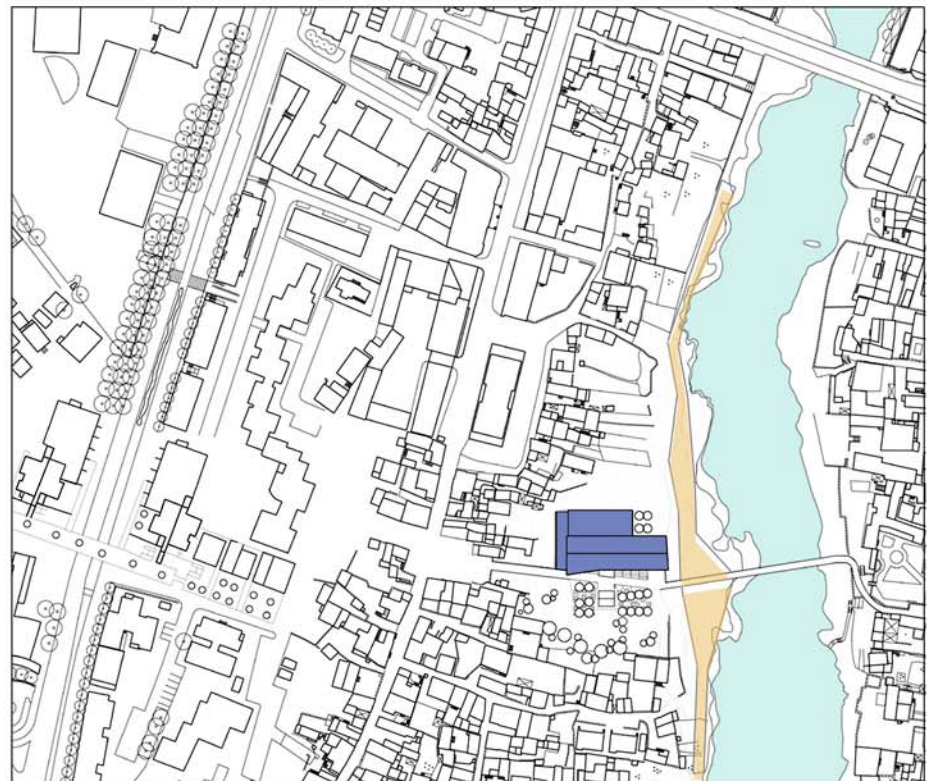
Student Projects Phase 1

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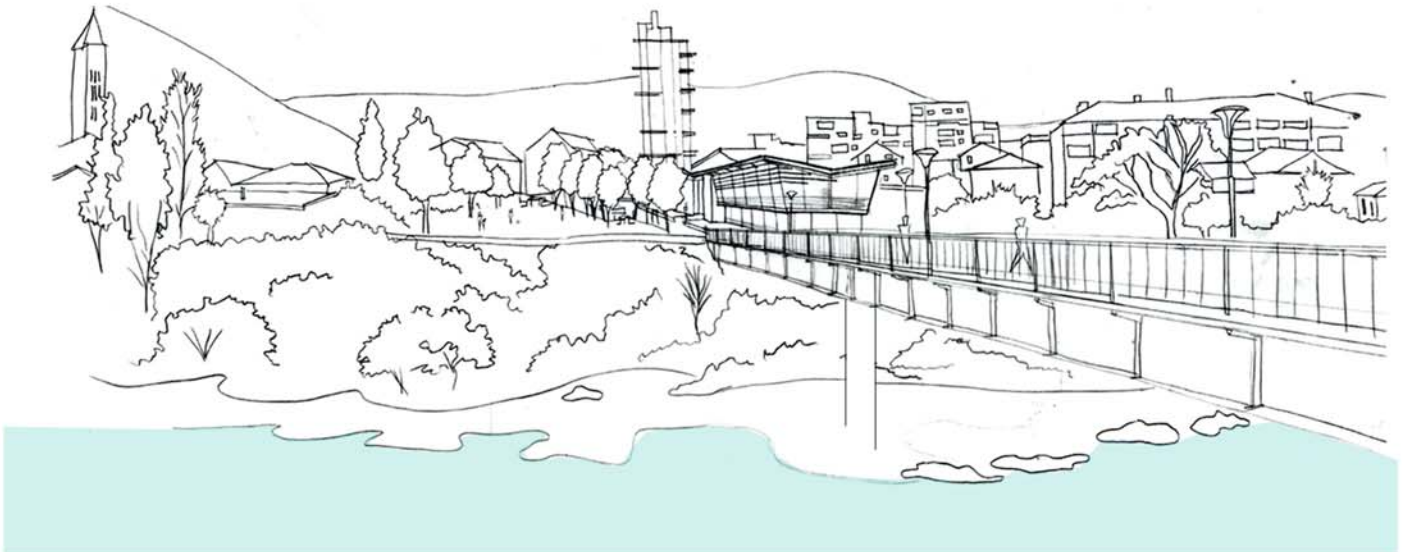
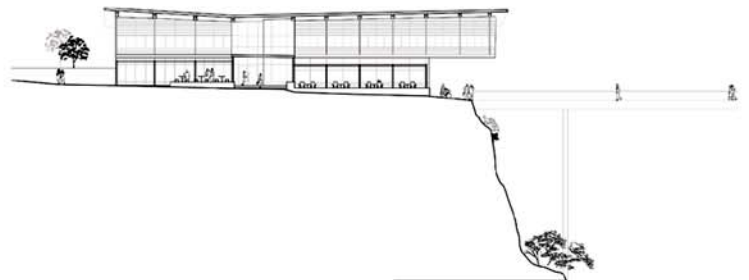
PHASING OVER TIME

**The Susreck (Encounter)
Restaurant and Park**
Elizabeth Paolini

Sited dramatically on the river at the footbridge, the two-story restaurant and music club expands over the pedestrian path to an open-air cafe and small park to encourage casual encounters. With a commanding view across and along the river, it also lies along the proposed river promenade and acts as an urban landmark in the landscape.



Site Plan

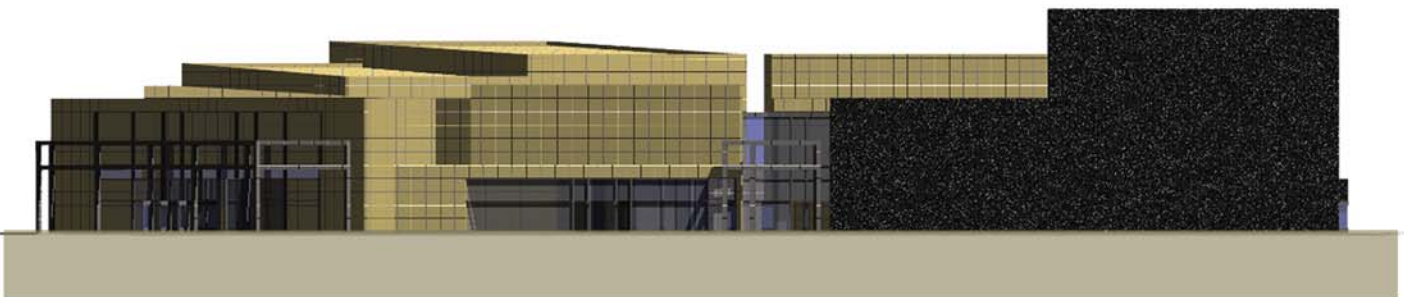




Cinema Complex

Chad Crain

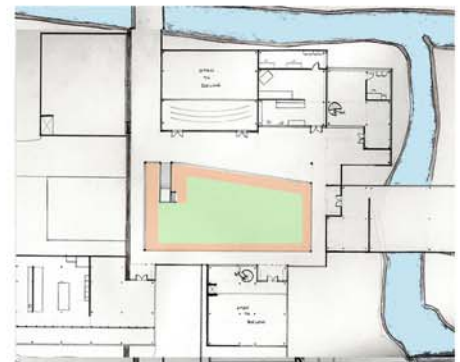
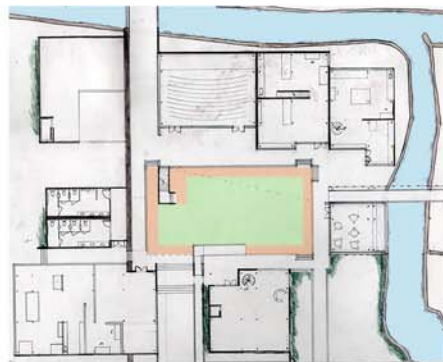
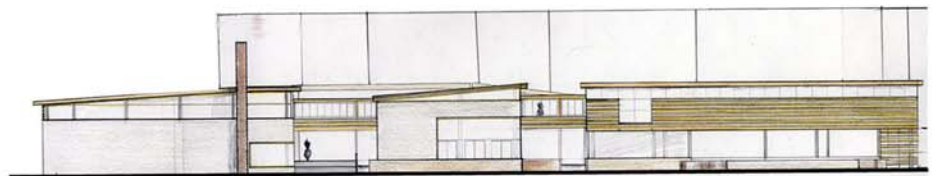
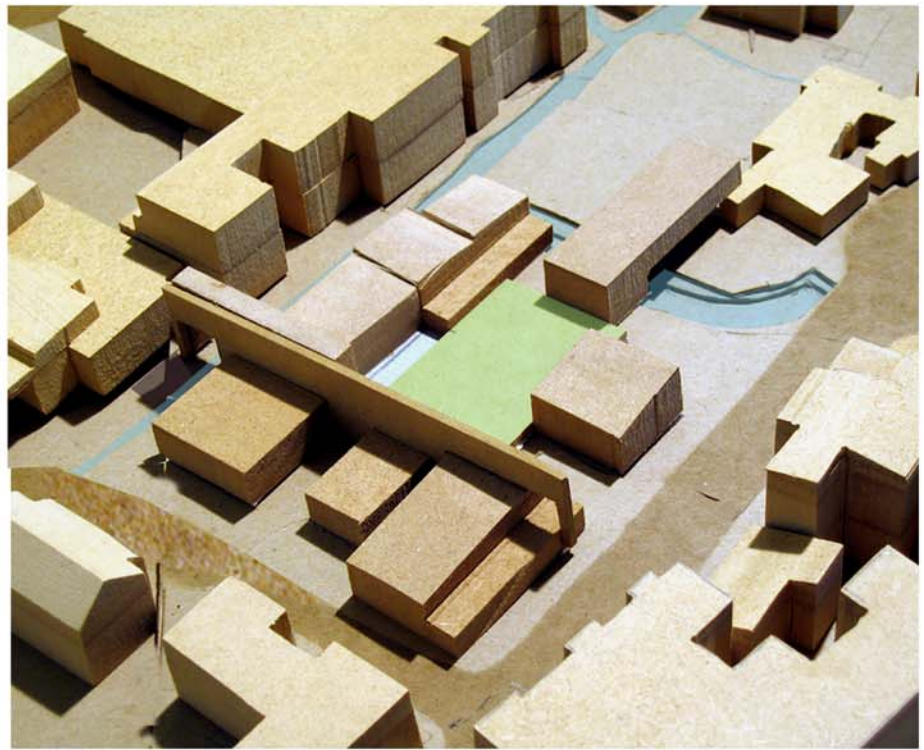
The building is at an important junction of the Boulevard and the east-west road to the vehicular bridge. Its location will encourage people from the (Muslim) west bank to cross over to the east and is well positioned for out-of-town visitors. In addition to the small and mid-size cinemas, the complex also houses shops and a restaurant arranged around a central open courtyard.

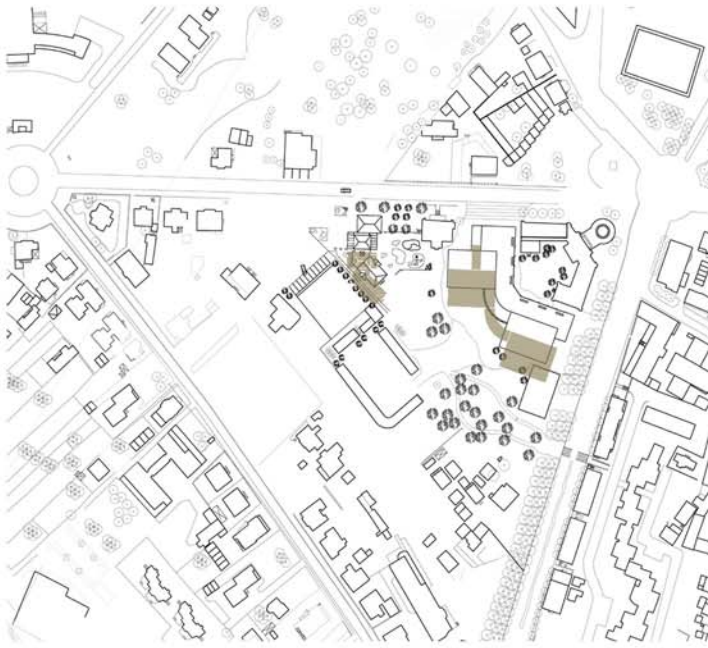


Mostari Artisan's Center

Amanda Roy

Built to produce and to market local crafts under one roof, the center provides a destination for citizens of Mostar and visitors alike. The activities will generate income for the individual artisans and hopefully encourage small enterprise development.





Educational Buildings

Nicole Simone & Stefanie Balzotti

Although primarily a Croat school at present, the government sees the Gymnasium (High School) as an important facility in its plan to re-integrate populations through education. The project is likely to receive international funding, both for its historical importance and proposed development. Conceived as an extension of the Gymnasium, the new building creates a courtyard between itself and the existing building and provides a much needed gymnasium and lecture hall, and also additional classrooms. A children's day care center, located to the west of the old library, completes the ensemble. The buildings also connect the Boulevard to the park and more recently built housing to the west. The new educational facilities will encourage use by students of all ethnic backgrounds and will subsequently draw the parents into the buildings as well.



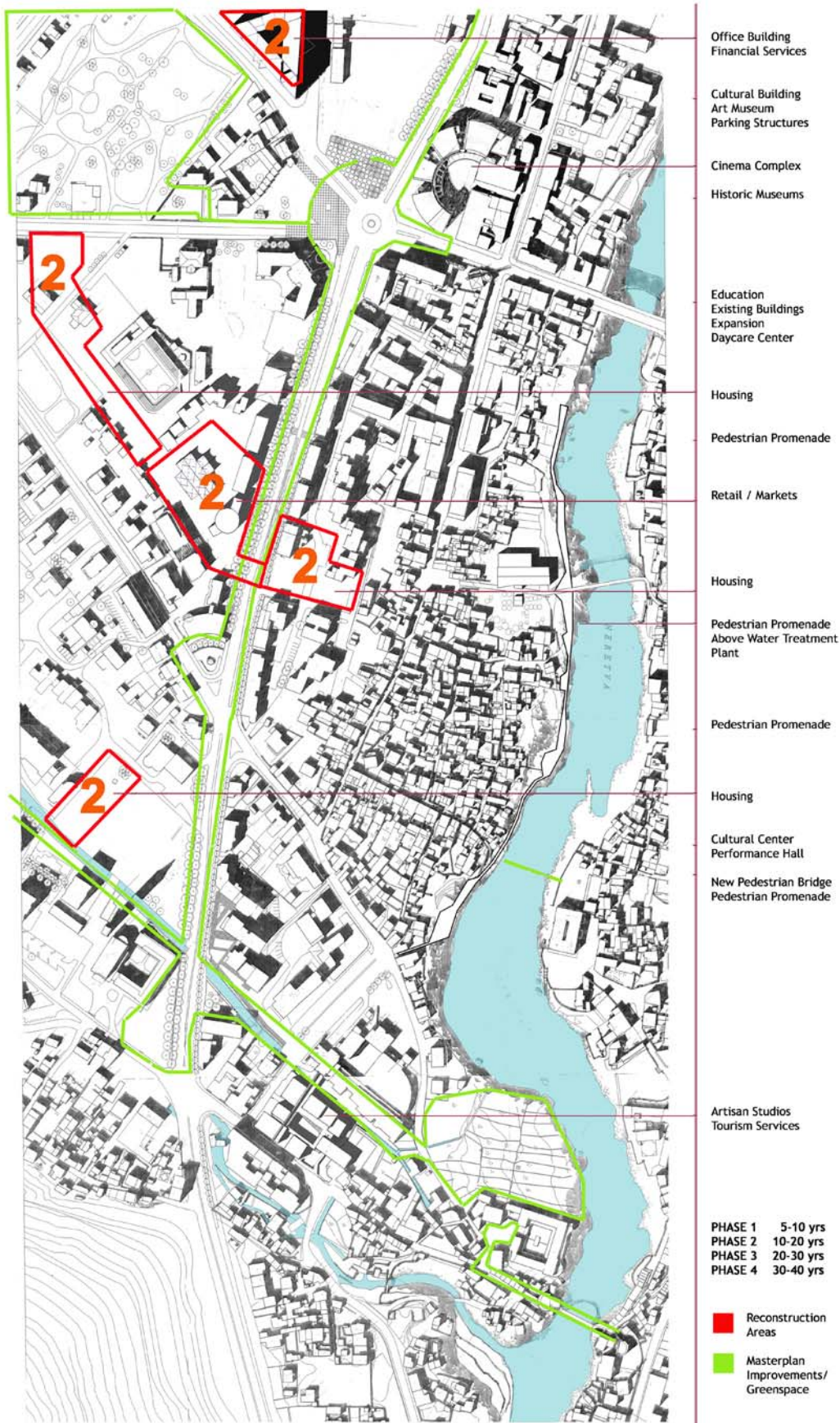


Incubator Building

Paul Hauser & Chul Hoon Park

As part of the economic generation plan an incubator office building, situated just off the boulevard, is designed to replace a bombed-out tall building. Rising to a height of six floors this state of the art facility would house start-up companies and innovative and experimental business ventures. The building is serviced by the car park and is lifted off the ground to allow pedestrian connections in the area.





Student Projects Phase 2

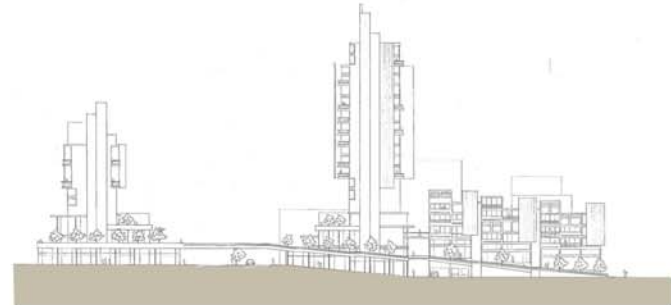
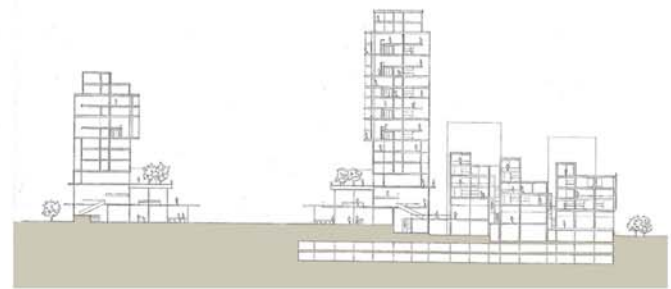
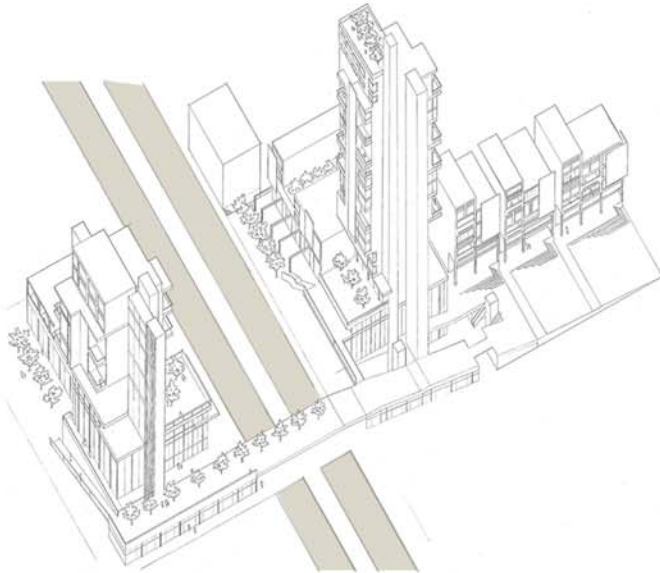
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PHASING OVER TIME

Commercial Street and Housing

Stephen Scirrotto

A commercial plaza is designed to continue the pedestrian path from the river west to the Boulevard. It proposes shops on two levels, one on the ground and one on a raised podium off which a pedestrian bridge crosses the Boulevard connecting both sides of it together. Above the shops are high rise apartments that have magnificent views of the city on all sides.

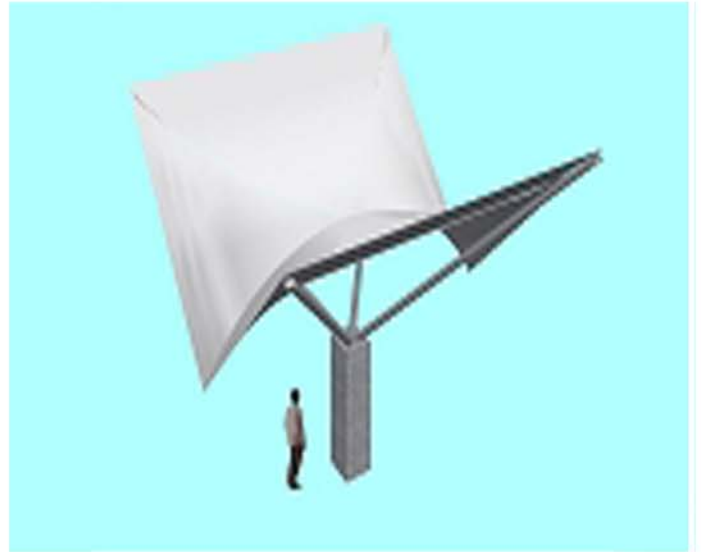




Gallery and Marketplace

Timothy Bestor

This project investigates the location of a new public market and art gallery. The project also focuses on the creation of a strong pedestrian connection from the Old City to the east and the newer development to the west.

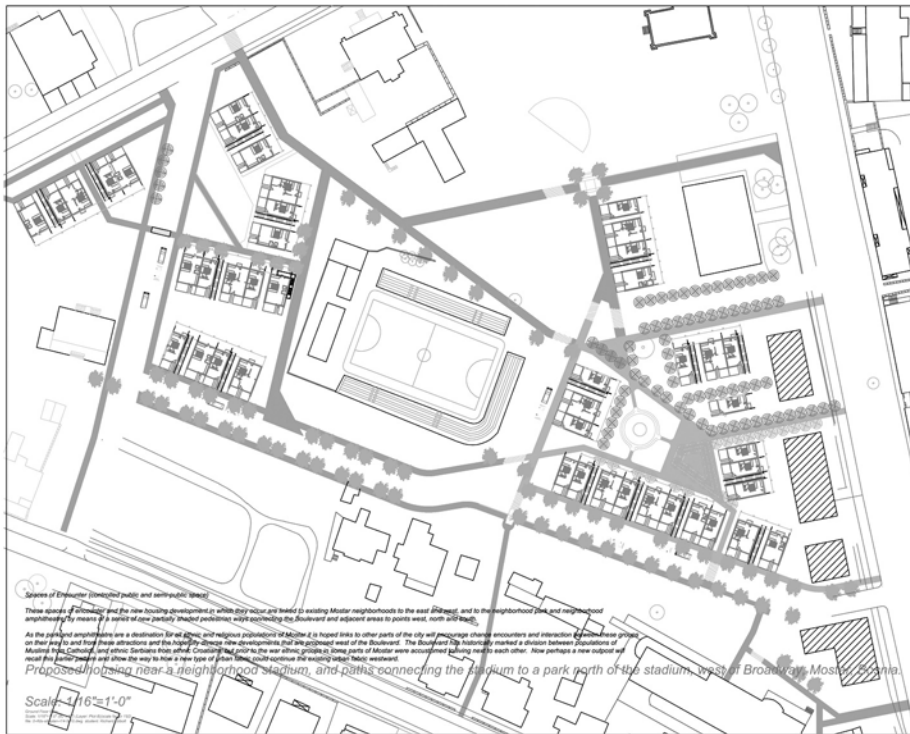


Housing Complex

Christopher Poles

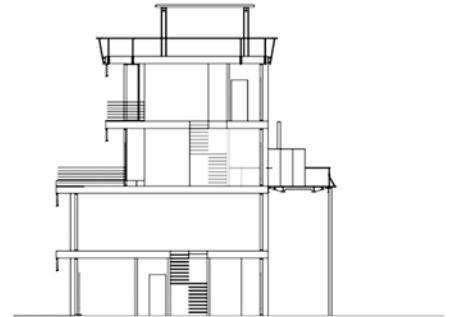
This proposal for a site along the Boulevard consists of a housing complex that forms an edge for a public marketplace. The siting of the buildings invites east-west movement from the Boulevard through to the market spaces. Contemporary in design, construction materials are similar to the newer stucco clad buildings found in the city.

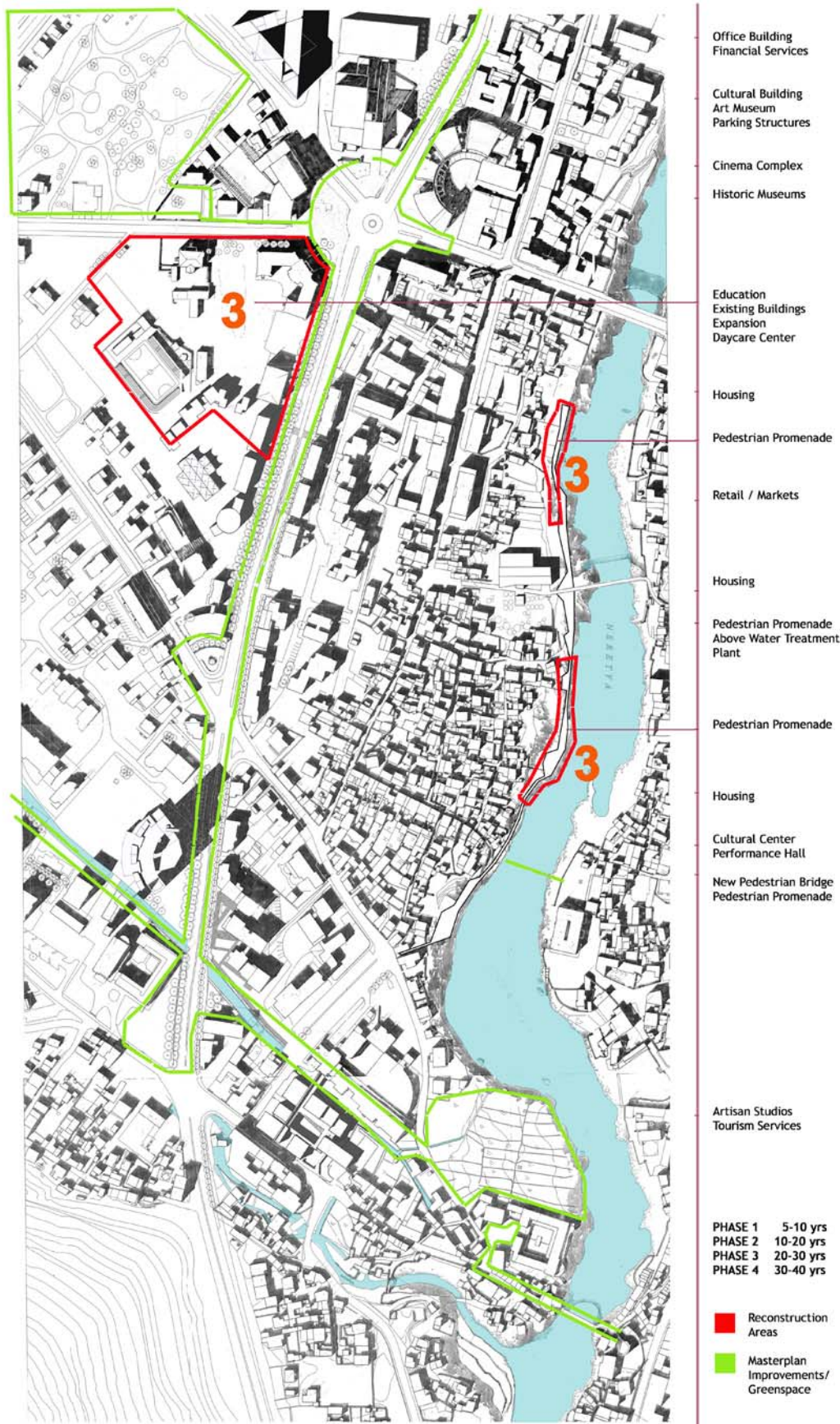




Housing
Richard Stibolt

Another proposal weaves two story housing between other commercial and sports development west of the Boulevard. The houses provide an alternative to apartment living and are based on indigenous models set in clusters to form their own communal open spaces for the inhabitants to mingle and interact.





Student Projects Phase 3

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PHASING OVER TIME

The City Museum

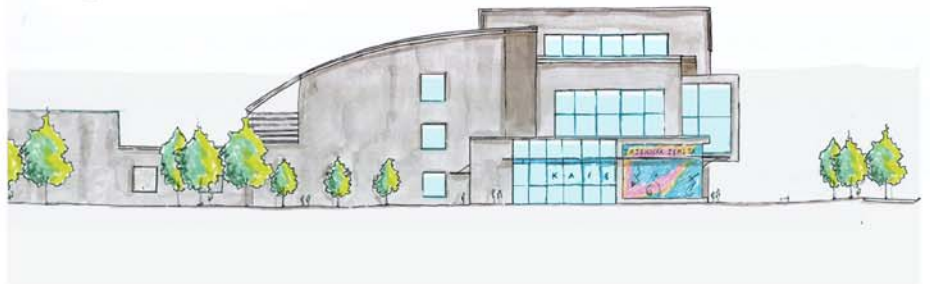
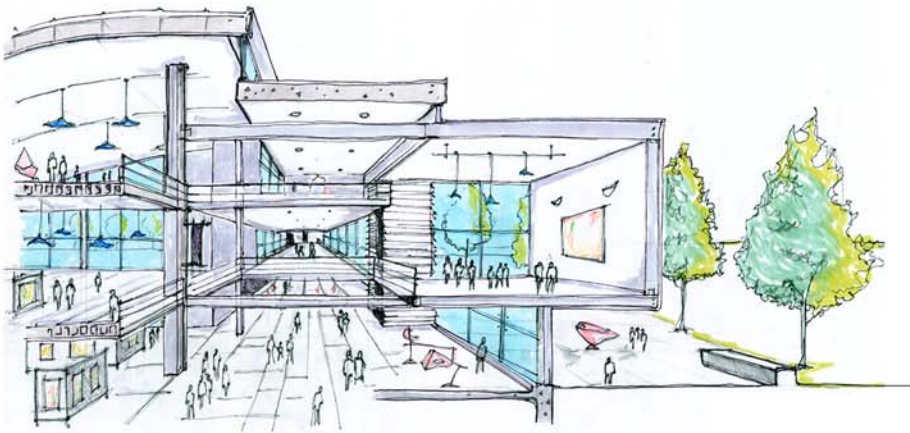
Marcio Tavares

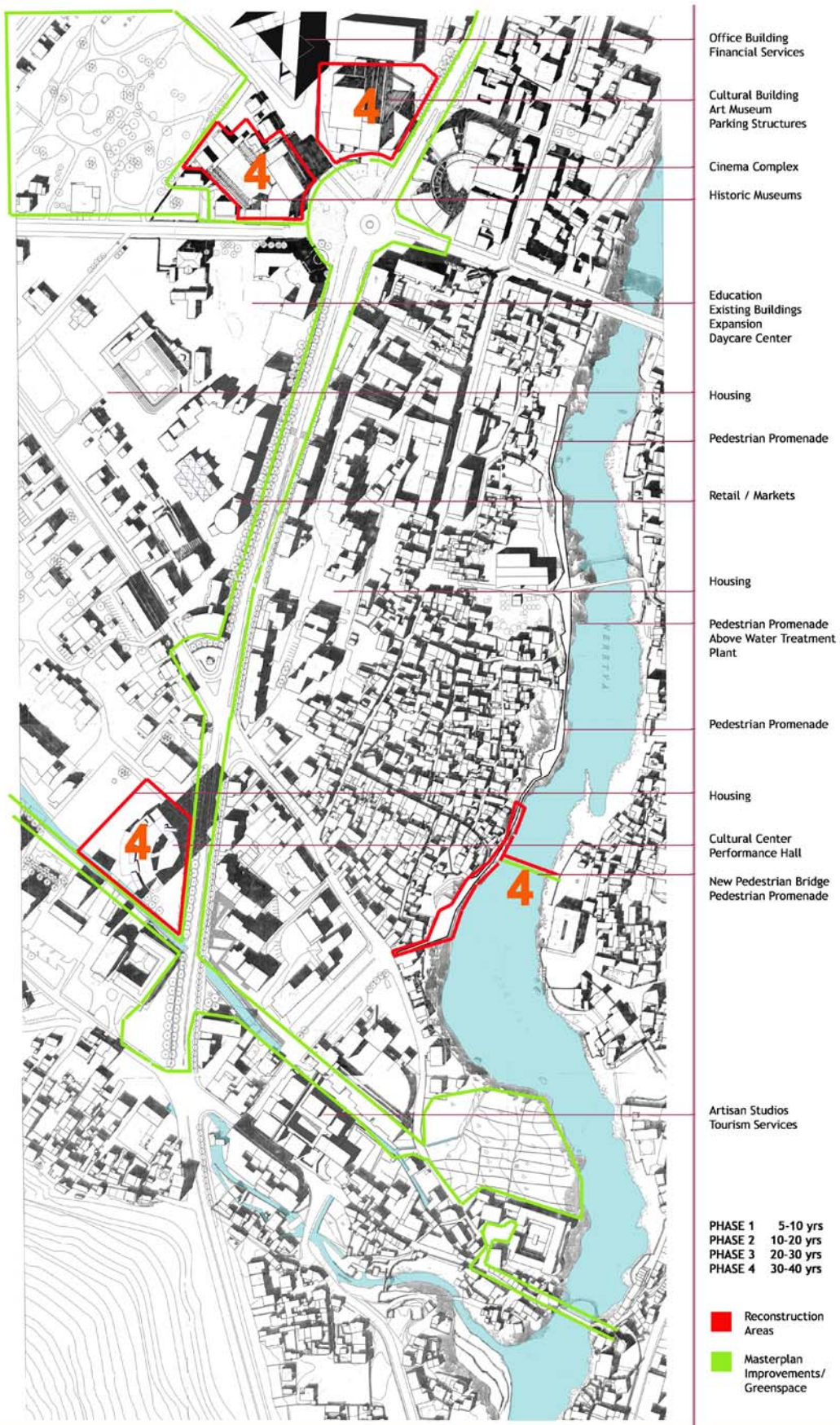
To commemorate the city's past and to educate and inform its citizens and visitors a museum for the history of Mostar occupies an important site on the Boulevard at the end of the vehicular bridge east-west street. It completes the ring of cultural facilities and also animates the eastern arm of the rotary.



The Zasenicka Zemlja Arts Center
Sara Fitzgerald

A signature building housing a center for the country's contemporary arts is placed at the northern head of the Boulevard. The large, open galleries of the building encourages interaction. The building also faces the large rotary proposed in the Boulevard master plan, creating a public space of encounter in a shaded forecourt.





Student Projects Phase 4

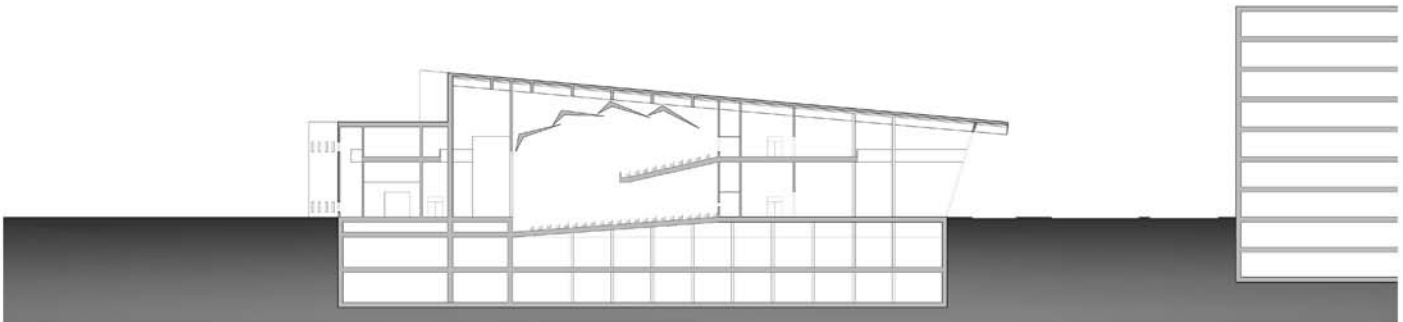
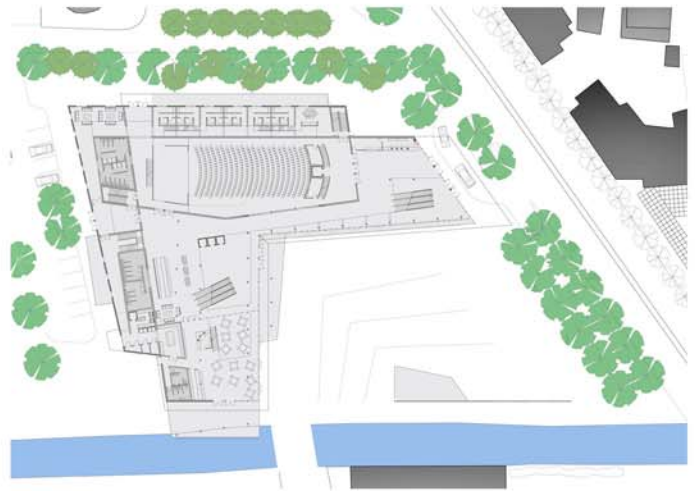
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MOSTAR - BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA

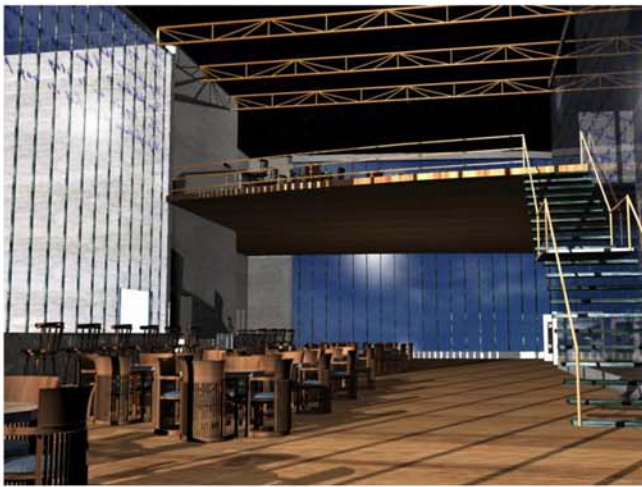
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Theater

Frank Wierszchalek

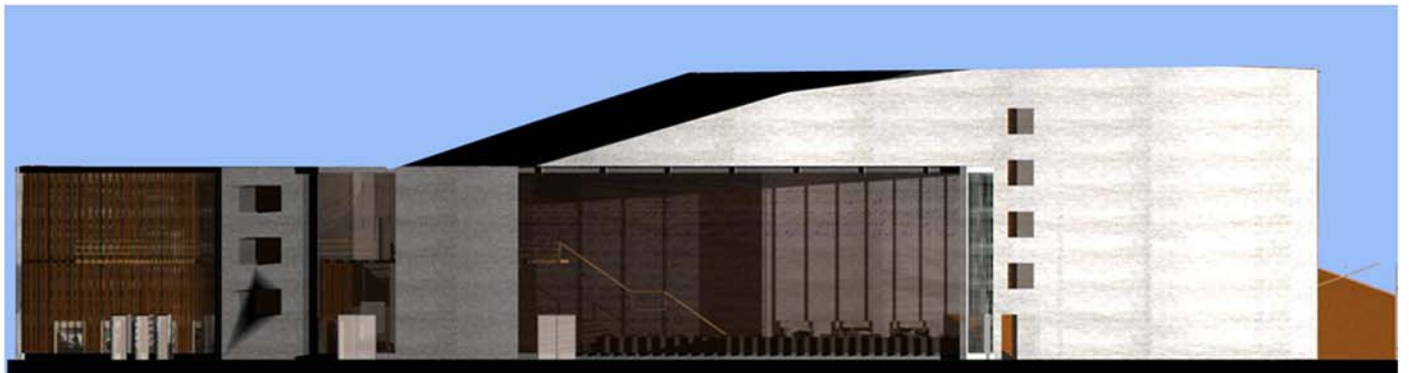
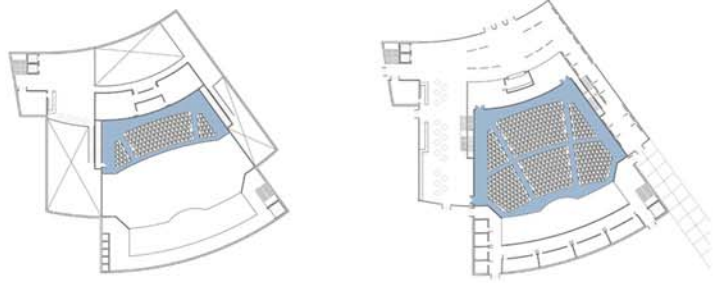
A large modern theater, suitable for concerts and plays is proposed on land north of the large church. It also provides a large open space which could be used for recreation and church events, and creates a river walk along the small east-west tributary from housing to the east to the Stari Most area.





Theater and Housing Complex
Derek Lariviere & Alison Conover

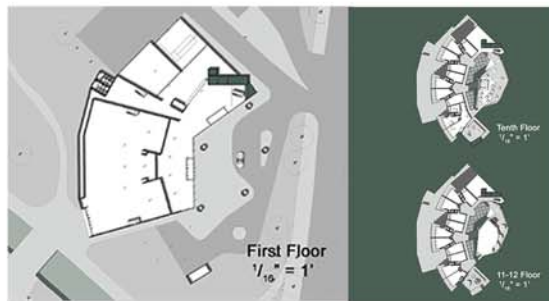
Another proposal for the church-owned land is for a complex which houses a large theater flanked by a courtyard housing scheme. Large public open spaces allow for public interaction, while the more secluded courtyard is a semi-private space for the occupants of the housing units.



Businessman's Hotel

James Dixon

Proposed as an income generating activity, a high-rise hotel with a rooftop and intermediate garden, compliments the tall campanile of the church. Each of the rooms has city-wide views. The hotel provides banquet facilities for major functions and social gatherings such as weddings.

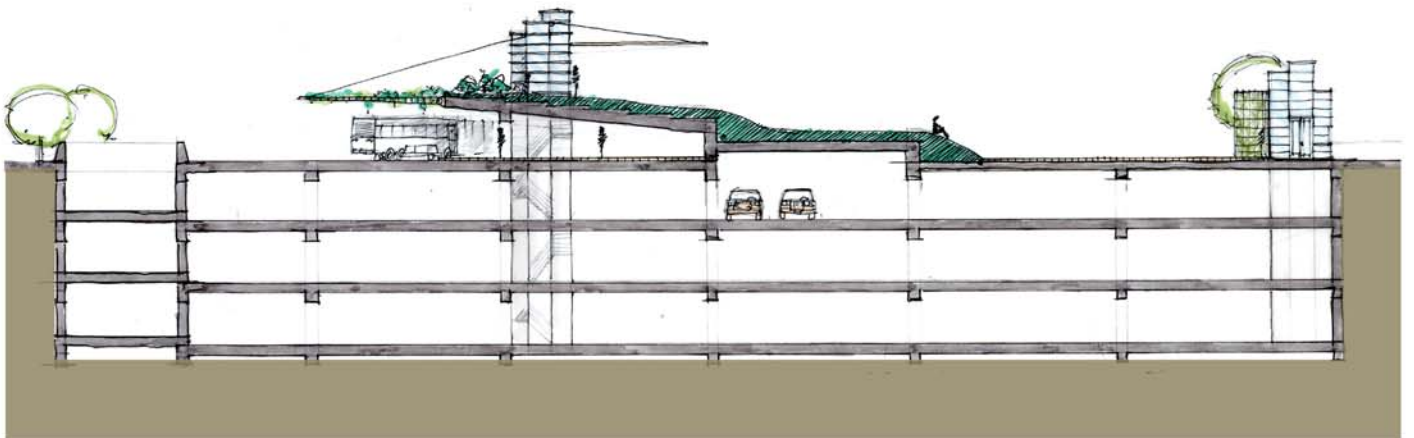
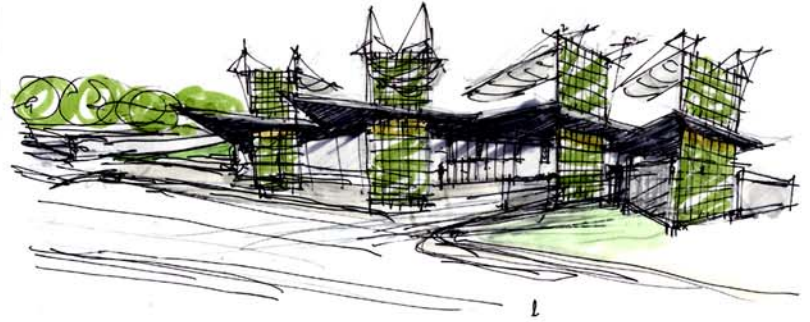




Bus Station & Open-air Public space

William Arvidson

In this proposal, a different approach is taken on the church land in the south Boulevard area. A new bus station with service within the city and to outlying areas brings people right into the heart of the city. This station is also combined with a major underground parking garage. Above the garage is a large sloping gathering place suitable for public gatherings and open air concerts, which could be a major public gathering space for the city.





1. Workshop Presentations in Mostar, July 2003
2. Students and Reviewers at Roger Williams University, December 2004
3. Panelists at the Mostar Workshop, July 2003
4. Students and Reviewers at Roger Williams University, December 2004
5. Massing Model of the Boulevard and surrounding area.

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