

AIM OF INTERVENTION

The project is coordinated by the Centre for Spatial Research, an NGO which balances between science, practice, activism and creative sector, pointing the need of interdisciplinary approach in processes of urban planning and design, so the project emerged as the result of collaboration with the city of Banja Luka and HERD Energy University cooperation between Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) - Faculty of Architecture and Design Trondheim, University of Sarajevo - Faculty of Architecture, and University of Banja Luka - Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy.

For carefully chosen spot place, the project predicted a "small scale" intervention to remind of traditional qualities and meanings that the Vrbas river had, as well as to produce some new ones, yet to be defined. The project highlights the problems by activating riverside and promoting its role as an important public space, which attracts the people, encourages using and generates different facilities. It inspires thoughts as well as public participation that initiates further interventions along the riverside.

The project rises the public conscious about the importance and qualities of professional involvement in the process of urban planning and urban design.

DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTION

The project included a several-months long research on urban acupuncture, design of a "small" urban-architectural structure and its real construction at specific location, realized with 30 students in an international and interdisciplinary team. A friendly and unobtrusive analytical approach (interviews with the locals, the public discussion, demands and needs of users, and analysis of urban and cultural context) was aimed to involve a large number of stakeholders throughout the process, so the users accept the project as their own. Due to the existing programs, the intervention is subtle, does not disturb existing natural and physical structure of the site but coexist with surroundings, so the "site specific" project emerges from the context which supports, refreshes and re-uncover its values, and generates additional ones.

The result is an open space structure which enables the contact with the river, as well as bigger useful surface and more functions. Only two elements - the deck and the promenade form a multifunctional, linear structure which follows the natural coast. It allows different ways of everyday use as docking of dayak boats as well as a unique panoramic and most beautiful view over the whole surroundings including the medieval Kastel fortress, the socialist housing blocks and industrial chimney. The modular bench-like structures can be used in different ways as sitting, standing, lying down, learning, children's play, sunbathing, and visual dynamic in the space.

Wood has been used as the main material whose texture and colour do not interfere with visual effect of the location and is subtly blended in.

