



Report Gjiilan site visit, 18th of April 2013

Even though visiting Kosovo is a bit difficult, we were glad that 12 architects made it for the site visit that was scheduled from European Kosovo team.

The meeting point was in front of the Municipality building within the intervention site and it was very easy to find from the visitors.

The presentation started when all the groups came and it was lead from our president Architect and Urban Planner Ilir Gjinolli who is also very well informed about the situation in Gjiilan.

We started walking around the project site and later to continue around the strategic site while giving information about the history, economy, sociology, planning rules, tradition of the city etc.



Gjilan is a growing city and in need of urban and architectural interventions.

European 12 competition is an excellent opportunity to improve the situation in Gjilan, to have an overlook of the city from international point of view, to propose possible solutions and improvements that will transform this city.

Gjilan is one of the biggest towns in the eastern part of Kosovo known for the tradition of trade and agriculture. It is a regional centre that is important for the Morava river valley and bordering region with Macedonia and Serbia. The municipality of Gjilan aims to develop based on three interrelated strategies: Agriculture, tourism and cross border interchange. Urban Development strategies are linked to the vision of the whole municipality and related to spatial, economic and social dimensions of the city. One of the goals stated in the urban development plan is sustainable use of resources and use of the energy efficiency strategies.



Gjilan is gradually developing in a spatially compact city based on the following main principles: defining the building area, defining central area, housing densification, and development focused in the main strategic points of the city, creation of the efficient mobility system, easy access to the public and infrastructural services, protection and extension of the green spaces, etc.

Gjilan – a dynamic city, promoting and strengthening of the socio-economic conditions with the aim of reviving the city. The urban development plan has emphasized the culture to support the economy as one of the main development sectors based on landscape resources and cultural heritage.

The site proposed by the municipality currently contains the court building, police station, municipal administration and the hotel which is a private property. A big public space – more dedicated to car traffic than to pedestrians, and a small river in the northern boundary makes the link between buildings. Although this small river is covered in the city centre, the opening of riverbed and regulation will consider the river as an open urban asset for public life. The existing traffic network defines the urban morphology of the area – shapes of the urban blocks which differ in size and shape.

The organic development of the city structure is inherited from the ottoman period when the city is established. There are two different types of built structure. While on the main street the structure is modernist, in the background of the street it can be easily identified the organic way of development of the city.

European participants who visited the site had the opportunity to visit the whole strategic site and in particular the project site and see the connections, the typology, morphology and urban pattern of the location. To have a better view on the obstacles that always go towards the city center we visited parts of the suburbs, the river, where we could see how the river bed is treated and improved, also the city market which is located near the project site and also parts of city that are responsible for traffic flow. This visited area contains various functions, from public activities, commercial ones to cultural points and private areas that make the multi-functionality more diverse.

The transformation of the site, will contribute to improve the overall visual appropriations of the city centre. The proposal should look at the wider area and at the project site. Beside the architecture, the urban design context should look at the mobility issues at the city scale, study area propose the measures that could turn the area from car based to pedestrian friendly environment. The proposed solution could serve as a starting point for developing an urban mobility framework.



After hours of walking around the site we stopped at the terrace of the Hotel (which is part of the competition), while refreshing with drinks and coffee we had an opportunity to get to know more about the participants, their work and what they think about the city. Part two of the visit continued again through the strategic site while answering different questions made by interested competitors. European Kosovo provided lunch for participants, again in the terrace of the Hotel and after that we proceeded to visit the Urban Planning Directorate which operates under the Municipality of Gjilan where we made a detailed presentation of the site through maps and information that we also served in the European website.



Beside the official site visit day, we were also asked to give tours and explanation of the site in two more sessions from two different teams. Also we had two day meetings with each team, one in Gjilan and one in Prishtina. The visits in Prishtina were made just to get an overview of the culture in the capital, to visit important sites and to get as much information as they can about Kosovo development.

The second meeting was done 8th and 9th of May, the third one was done 15th and 16th of May.

EUROPAN KOSOVO

Ilir Gjinolli president

Rron Tresi secretary

contact@europan-kosovo.org

www.europan-kosovo.org

www.europan-europe.eu

Rr.UÇK 50/1
10000 Prishtina,
Kosovo