

## Mostar (BiH), recovery of the area between the Rondo, the Boulevard and Piazza di Spagna

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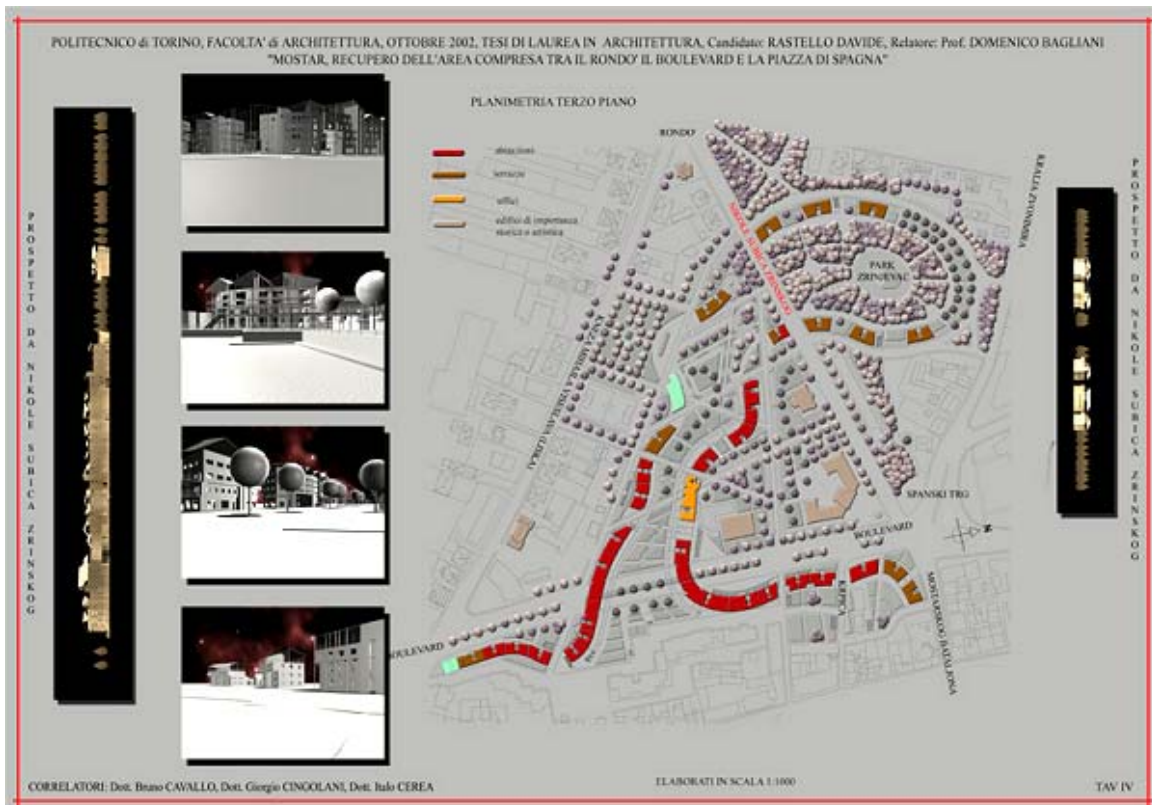
This survey deals with the area that used to represent the front line between the two armies – the Croats and the Muslims – that contested control of the city during the war. The area shows deep signs of deterioration, as well as a remarkable growth of spontaneous buildings, owing to total lack of tools of management for urban planning and to poor restriction. Namely, the aftermath of war.

The city is still divided in two almost homogeneous zones and ethnic groups. Choosing to build a new urban centre to counter - or, alternatively, offset - the ones which were formed after the conflict, originated in the project for area improvement through the implementation of large residential and commercial premises and facilities.

Opportunities for social aggregation to be provided for, resulting in a trade-off of various activities, whether purely executive or mostly commercial, as well as leisure and residential.

From the very first sketch, the proposal of establishing a flyover crossing looked most convenient a solution.

The advisability of spurring on the use of the overpass by building an actual flyover commercial street was also considered, whereas pedestrian traffic would be intentionally diverted for safer crossing to set courses (footbridges) in the immediate vicinity.



renderings and front view

The road that stretches out as straight as a ribbon throughout the territory, thus connecting both sides of the town, was designed to convey the idea of a river, the very river that gave birth to the town in ancient times and saw it grow over the years. This is where the proposed starting point came in, namely a new building lot as spotted exactly between the two contested zones and meant to establish an area with no specific characterisation, to accommodate as many - and heterogeneous - cultural elements as possible, trying to have multiethnic unity, which was always an outstanding feature of both Mostar and Bosnia, portrayed again.

Height was also worked out for buildings to shape up in harmony with the surroundings. In fact, the proposal is to start building up to 18mt maximum (when it comes to matching with the existing huge multi-storied building behind the area under reference) and slope down to three-storied houses near the park. Building size of the latter ones to mingle with the existing fabric consisting of low, isolated small villas.

In consideration of the height of two vast terraces flanking the boulevard, it was suggested that three large basement car parks be made out of them, as residence fixtures, and that superelevated areas be thus recovered, away from the noise coming from the roadbed. An additional opportunity for social cohesiveness is provided by a park area to be devoted to outdoor events. Choosing to have residential premises built within the park was a result of the heavy demand for lodgings as coming from both the municipality and the inhabitants interviewed.

Anyway, a new green belt designed to make up for the portion of green that the park is being deprived of, will run along outside the ribbon, thus improving the overall perceptibility and actual structure of the park area itself.

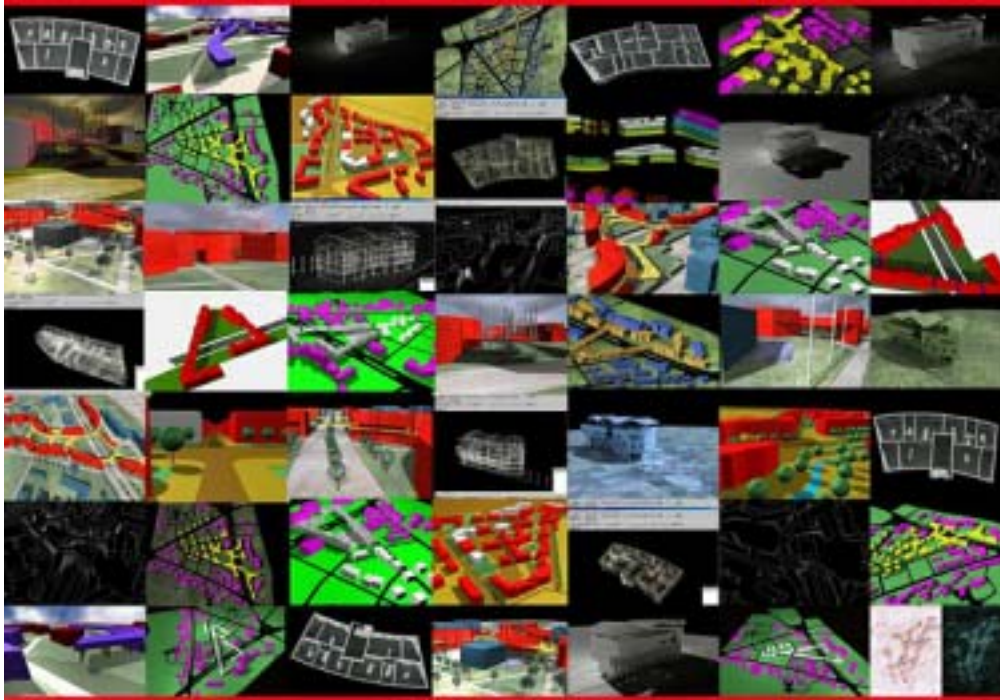


details

The central pedestrian precinct was opened to traffic owing to the marked car-oriented attitude of the population, due to the absolute axial features of the main thoroughfares. Great respectfulness of the forms, as deep-seated over the years – as one can plainly see from old-time pictures of the town - is being shown by using local structural stone and brightly coloured plaster.

The large number of pillars being proposed – here, made of metal - was inspired by the presence of a great deal of wooden props – a household tradition - throughout the historic centre of the city.

Just like the first storeys jutting out of the houses refer back to some ancient Muslim houses in the older part of the city, the heavy string-courses and the partition lines of the façades are directly inspired by the building custom that distinguishes the Hapsburg part of the town.



*Work in progress*

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