



VISIONING PROJECT OF THE GRAND BAZAAR IN **GJAKOVA**

2025



The significant decline of traditional crafts and the high number of closed and inactive shops within the bazaar indicate that stimulating the development of crafts should be a key pillar of the Grand Bazaar vision. The plan envisions promoting traditional crafts through informal education, including organizing exhibitions, training courses, and summer schools that engage children, young people, and tourists in learning about and practicing these crafts. Additionally, the vision includes the activation of model streets featuring traditional crafts, such as “Rruga e Kutixhinjeve” and “Rruga e Jorganxhinjeve,” transforming them into exhibition streets for informal education. This concept could be extended to other streets within the bazaar.

The numerous closed premises within the Grand Bazaar of Gjakova, coupled with the deterioration of public spaces due to a lack of infrastructural maintenance and activities, underscores the need for programmatic enrichment. This vision proposes a variety of activities that could be organized periodically—weekly, monthly, or annually. During community meetings, the space known as “Loma e Drithit” was identified as having potential for further development as a public venue for various events. Additional spaces around the “Krena” riverbed have also been recognized for their potential to host cultural activities. This vision outlines several modalities for organizing events, such as the “Days of the Grand Bazaar in Gjakova,” the “Festival of Old Civic Songs,” “Loma e Drithit” Cinema, and local food and crafts exhibitions. These activities aim to increase foot traffic and engagement within the bazaar.

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PEJË

Qerim

PRISHTINË

Jahoc

QERIM

INDUSTRIAL AREA

TRAKANIQ
RIVER

50000
KRENA
RIVER

ÇABRAT HILL

GRAND
BAZAAR
SIP 2.64

CITY CENTER

PRIZREN

ALBANIA

BREKOC

NEW BLOCK

ERENIK RIVER

SHKUGËZA PARK

0 100 200 300 400m

Short Introduction to the Project “Visioning the Grand Bazaar in Gjakova”

The project “Visioning the Grand Bazaar in Gjakova” is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Kosovo, officially reviewed and approved by the Kosovo Institute for the Protection of Monuments. It aims to develop a sustainable and inclusive approach for the urban, cultural, and economic regeneration of one of the most significant historic cores in the country — the Grand Bazaar of Gjakova, known as the largest and one of the oldest bazaars in Southeast Europe.

The project was developed through an extensive and participatory process, involving detailed research on the historical, architectural, and functional aspects of the bazaar. It focused on addressing long-standing challenges such as structural degradation, loss of traditional crafts, diminished public use, and lack of proper infrastructure and management.

With a clear vision for the revitalization of the bazaar as a vibrant cultural, social, and commercial hub, the project lays out a strategic framework that emphasizes conservation of authentic architectural elements, reactivation of traditional artisan trades, enhancement of public spaces, and encouragement of sustainable tourism.

The first phase of the project is currently under implementation, marking a critical step toward restoring the bazaar’s historical character while adapting it to the needs of contemporary urban life. Through this initiative, the Grand Bazaar of Gjakova is envisioned to become a dynamic, multifunctional space that celebrates heritage, supports local economic development, and reconnects the community with its cultural identity.

PROBLEMS

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Access to vehicles
Damaged roads



LOSS OF AUTHENTICITY

Removal of Cobblestones



RIVER TREATMENT

Pollution
Views
Greenery



LACK OF ACTIVITIES

Bigger attendance of the Bazaar



SIDEWALKS

Difficulty in pedestrian access



LIGHTENING

Security and access to the Bazaar



CLOSURE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES

Loss of primary functions



LACK OF MANAGEMENT STAFF

Bazaar Development



DAMAGED BUILDINGS

Impact on the safety and aesthetic appearance of the Bazaar



POTENTIALS

RETURN TO A HISTORICAL AND TOURISTIC AREA

Larger attendance of the Bazaar



CREATION OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL SPACES

The development of the Bazaar as a whole
Development in cultural terms



INTEGRATION OF GREEN SPACES ALONG THE RIVER

Creating urban vitality and harmony



DEVELOPMENT OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

Community Integration



TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Proximity to important locations such as Çabradi, Shkugzë, etc.



RESTORING BASIC FUNCTIONS

Preservation of Originality



USE OF SPACES WITH DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Integration of additional programs



CULTURAL HERITAGE

Old buildings about 400 years old





4

1 ARCHITECTURAL DISHARMONY

1 FACADES COVERING

2 FLOOR COVERING

2

VETËVENDOSJE!

LËVIZJA

V

07-904-CJ



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2 3 INSCRIPTIONS AT THE BAZAAR
4 DIFFERENT TYPES OF ROOF

4

3

3

MIKU
— lounge —



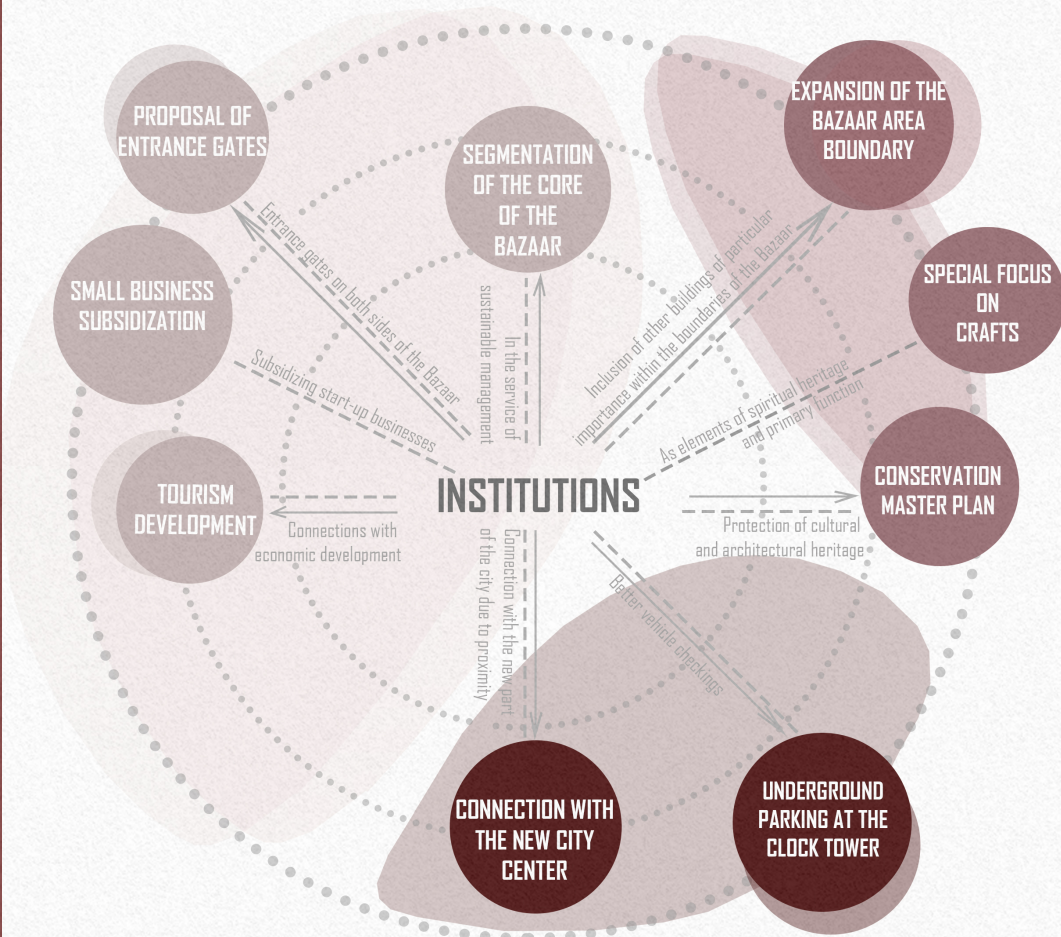
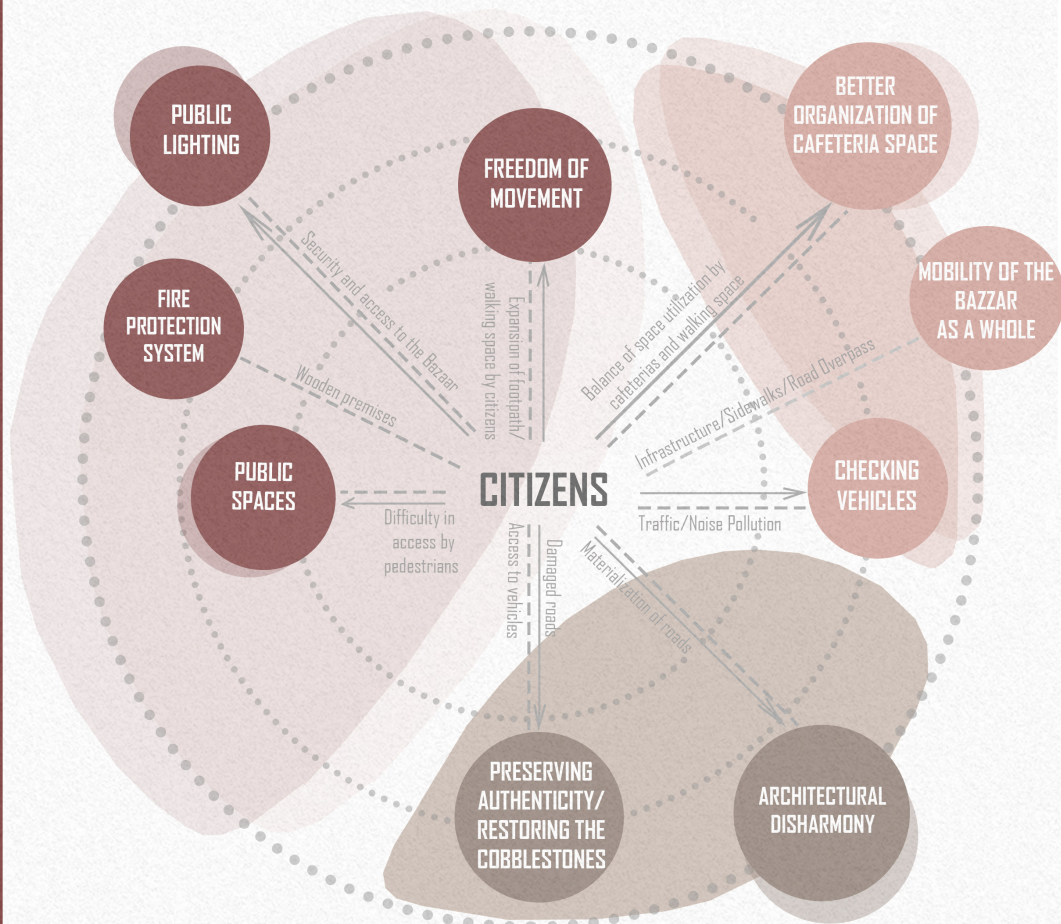
A key component of the project is its participatory planning process, which placed community involvement at the center of decision-making. In recognition of the bazaar's collective value and the importance of inclusive urban development, the project team facilitated three dedicated workshops, each engaging a distinct group of stakeholders:

Citizens were invited to express their everyday experiences, concerns, and aspirations regarding the bazaar. Their input provided essential insights into the social and emotional significance of the space, and emphasized the urgency of restoring authenticity and public usability.

Local businesses and artisans participated in a separate session focused on economic challenges and potentials. These stakeholders highlighted the need for renewed support for traditional crafts, better infrastructure, and a revitalized tourism strategy that would generate sustainable income for the community.

Institutions and professionals, including architects, planners, and heritage experts, contributed to a more technical assessment of the site. This workshop focused on regulatory frameworks, conservation priorities, and long-term management strategies for the bazaar's protected status.

This inclusive, bottom-up approach helped ensure that the vision for the Grand Bazaar is deeply rooted in community values while being aligned with professional standards and institutional goals. The diverse feedback collected from the workshops has directly informed the project's conceptual framework and intervention proposals.





CONCLUSION FROM THE MEETING WITH BUSINESSES

LEGEND:

- ROADS
- THE BORDER OF THE BAZAAR
- KRENA RIVER

8. MIXING ATMOSPHERIC WATER
WITH SEWAGE\SEWERAGE

9. STOPPING VEHICLE
TRAFFIC

1. SPACE WITH CULTURAL
HERITAGE VALUES

2. SPACE WITH POTENTIAL FOR
HOLDING ACTIVITIES

3. UNDERGROUND PARKING

10. INTERFERENCE IN BUSINESSES
FROM DESTRUCTION

11. 'LOMA E DRITHIT' - POTENTIAL
SPACE FOR A MARKET

4. CAR TRAFFIC ONLY FOR
RESIDENTS IN ST. 'SAFEDIN XERXA'

5. RESTORATION OF THE
'BEGU' TOWER

12. ZONING OF
SAME ACTIVITIES

6. REFUNCTIONALIZATION OF
THE OBJ. AS AN ENTITY FOR
URBAN PLANNERS AND
ARCHITECTS

13. REMOVAL OF THE
FOUNTAIN

14. MAINTENANCE OF THE
CEMETERY AT THE 'HADUM
MOSQUE'

7. ROTATION REMOVAL



VISIONING PROJECT OF THE GRAND BAZAAR IN GJAKOVA

The visioning project for the "Grand Bazaar in Gjakova" is a comprehensive initiative grounded in Participatory Planning Methodology. It is the result of workshops involving representatives from various community groups, including meetings with citizens, business leaders, and institutional representatives. The goal is to transform the Grand Bazaar of Gjakova into a cultural, historical, tourist, and craft complex that promotes cultural heritage values, based on five main pillars.

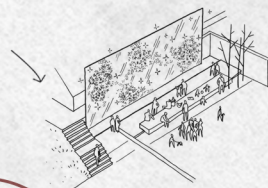
In response to concerns raised by citizens, business owners, and professionals regarding the removal of cobblestones and previous initiatives that have led to the loss of the original elements of the Grand Bazaar, this vision emphasizes the treatment of the central road alignment. It proposes the restoration of cobblestones in this segment of the road.

ADDING ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL SPACE TO "LOMA E DRITHIT" SQUARE

INCLUDING AN OPEN CINEMA IN THE RIVER SPACE

MUSICAL SHOW



• INCLUDING THE BICYCLE PATH TO THE RIVERSIDE
ENTRANCE GATES



STORES
LONG SHADES
THE RETURN OF TRADITION
FROM GRAPEVINE

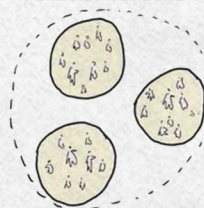


THE CORE OF THE BAZAAR
DIVISION OF FUNCTIONS
SPECIAL FOCUS OF CRAFTS
AS PRIMARY FUNCTION



ADDITIONAL PROGRAM
"BED AND BREAKFAST" HOSTELS
AS AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION FOR TOURISM
AND BAZAAR ATTENDANCE

FUNCTIONAL AREAS



THE GRAND BAZAAR



SEGMENTATION OF THE
BAZAAR INTO AREAS WITH
THE SAME FUNCTIONS



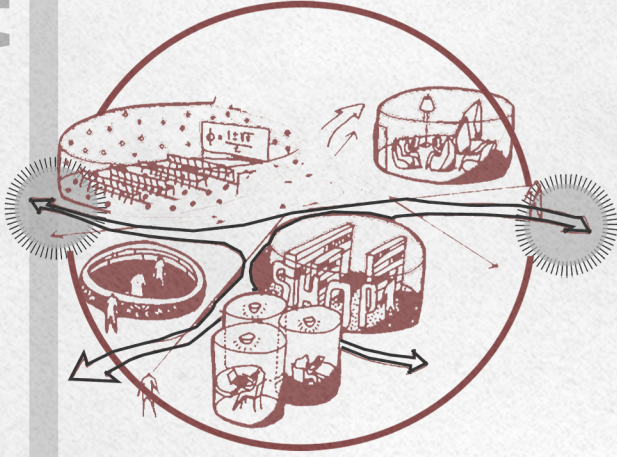
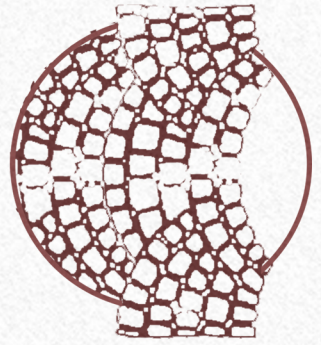
JOINT DEVELOPMENT CHAIN

THE CONCEPT OF BAZAAR DEVELOPMENT

THE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT OF THE GRAND BAZAAR OF GJAKOVA
AIMS TO PRESERVE ITS ORIGINAL SPIRIT, CONTINUATION OF
TRADITIONS AND CREATION OF URBAN VITALITY THROUGH THE
RE-ACTIVATION OF MANY KEY FUNCTIONS THAT FORMERLY MADE IT
A VERY IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CENTER.

THE CONCEPT OF BAZAAR
SEGMENTATION

1. TREATMENT OF THE MATERIALIZATION OF THE MAIN ROAD RETURNING THE COBBLESTONES



2. ZONING THE GRAND BAZAAR INTO SUBZONES DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENTRANCE GATES CONCEPT



3. STIMULATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRAFTS THEIR BIGGER EXPOSURE AS A COMPONENT OF INFORMAL EDUCATION



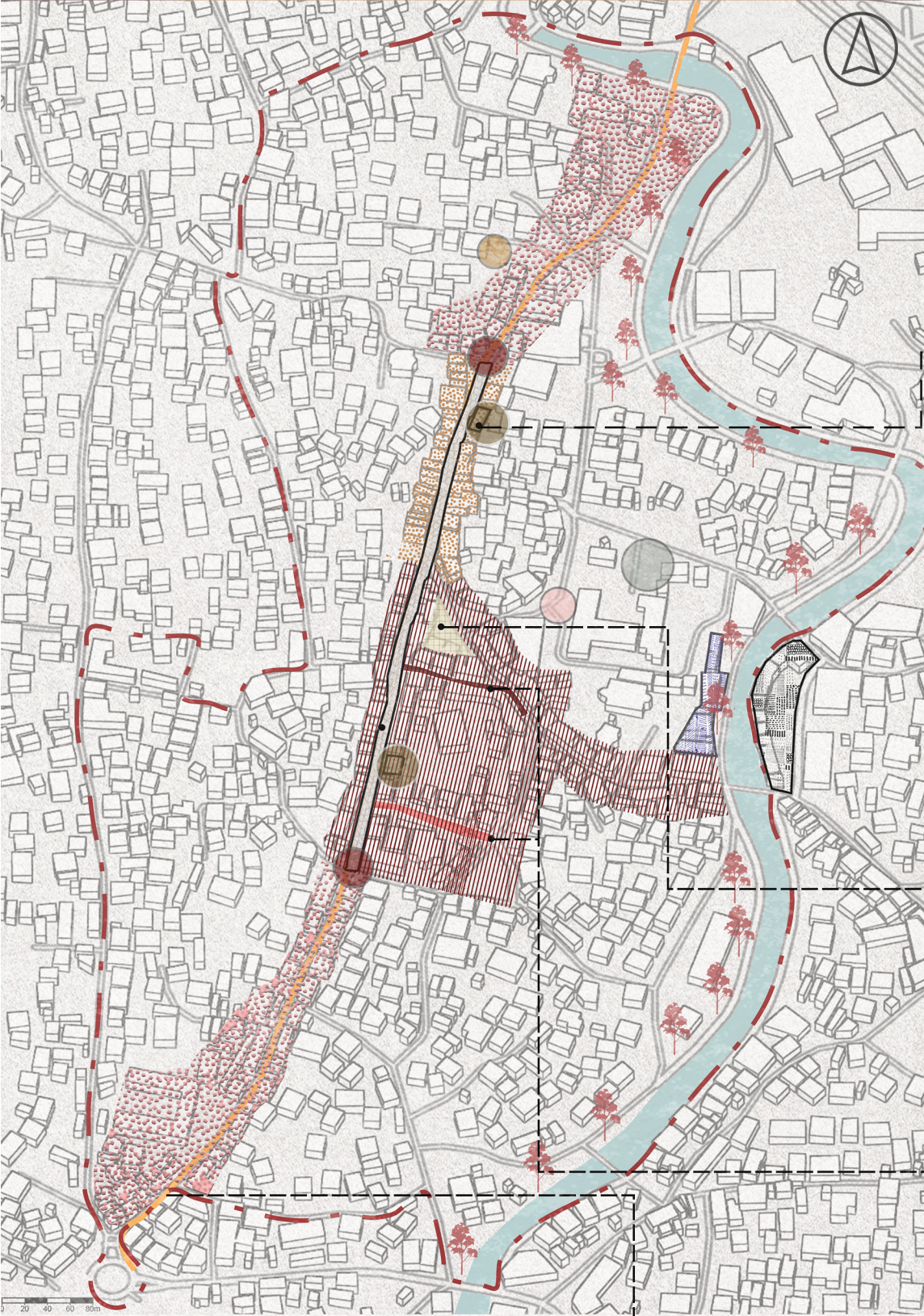
4. ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVITIES THAT ENRICH THE TOURIST OFFER

"DAYS OF THE GJAKOVA BAZAAR", "TE LOMA E DRITHIT" CINEMA ,
FFOOD FESTIVAL ETC.

5. "B&B" CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT AS A FORM OF FUNCTIONALIZATION OF HOSTELS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



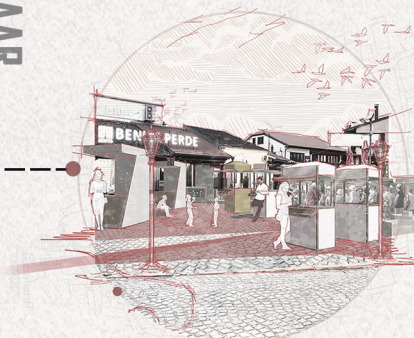
MAP - CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN OF THE GRAND BAZAAR



HOSTELS
DEVELOPMENT OF THE "B & B"
CONCEPT AS A FORM OF
FUNCTIONALIZATION OF
GUESTHOUSES



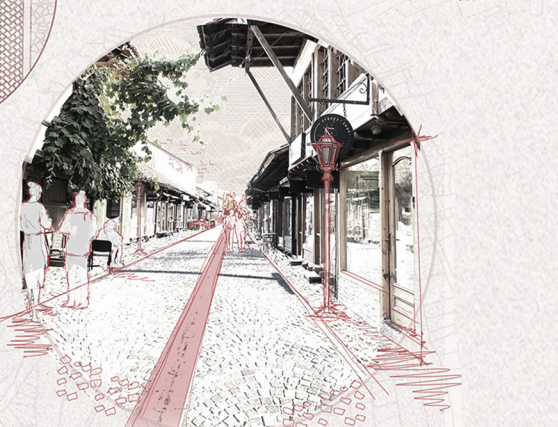
"LOMA E DRITHIT"
ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVITIES AT
'LOMA E DRITHIT' WHICH ENRICH
THE TOURIST OFFER.



CRAFTS
STIMULATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF
CRAFTS AND THEIR GREATER
EXPOSURE



TREATMENT OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC
TREATMENT OF THE CENTRAL ROAD ROAD
- RESTORATION OF THE PAVEMENT



- LEGEND**
- THE LARGE CITY CENTER
 - ANNEX OF THE LARGE CENTER
 - THE SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN SIDES OF THE BAZAAR
 - 'KUTIJXHINJËT' ROAD
 - 'JORGANGJINJËT' ROAD
 - ENTRANCE GATES
 - HOSTELS
 - PUBLIC TOILET
 - ROTATIONAL REMOVAL
 - PUBLIC PARKING INTEGRATION
 - DEMOLITION OF THE 'SARAJEVE' COAST
 - RETURN OF THE DAIRY MARKET
 - THE BORDER OF THE BAZAAR
 - KRENA RIVER

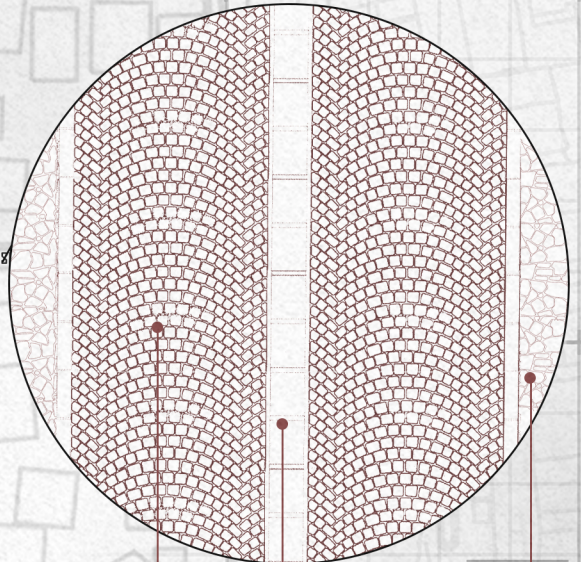


ROAD MATERIALIZATION MAP

LEGEND

- ROADS
- BAZAAR BORDER
- KRENA RIVER

MAIN ROAD MATERIALIZATION DETAIL



COBBLESTONE

NATURAL STONE

WATER COLLECTOR

CITY AMBULANCE

KRYEZIU'S FAMILY TOWER

HADUM MOSQUE

THE BEKTASHI
TEKKE

INNOVATION
CENTER

BAJRAM DAKLANI

HASAN DASHI

BAJRAM BAKALLI

SYLEJMAT HADUM AGA

ABEDIN TERBESHI

TAHIR EFENDIA

INSTITUTE FOR
MONUMENTS
PROTECTION

KRYEZIU
BROTHERS
SQUARE

ABEDIN TERBESHI

ISMAIL DEMALLI

SHEFKI SHASIVARI

ISMAIL DEMALLI

CARSHIJA E JUPAVE

VELEZIT FRASHERI

KRENA RIVER

PERMET VULA

PERMET VULA

GREZDA'S FAMILY
HOUSE

0 20 40 60 80m













Based on proposals from workshops involving institutional representatives and professionals, as well as similar suggestions identified in previous documents, this vision recommends zoning the bazaar into three areas: the main core, the annex of the main core, and the northern and southern sides of the bazaar. This zoning plan includes the development of entrance gate concepts located at both the entrance of the main core and the annex, creating a clear sense of 'beginning' and 'end' that enhances mobility and the overall experience of activities within the bazaar.



Structured around five thematic pillars, the project outlines specific proposals aimed at addressing current challenges while forecasting the future development of this culturally rich site. As a cultural entity of immense heritage value, the Grand Bazaar of Gjakova is positioned for revitalization through this vision. The project was developed at the request of both central and local cultural heritage institutions, and it has been warmly welcomed by the surrounding community.

