

**“Saint Arsenie the Great”
reinvented orthodox Church**





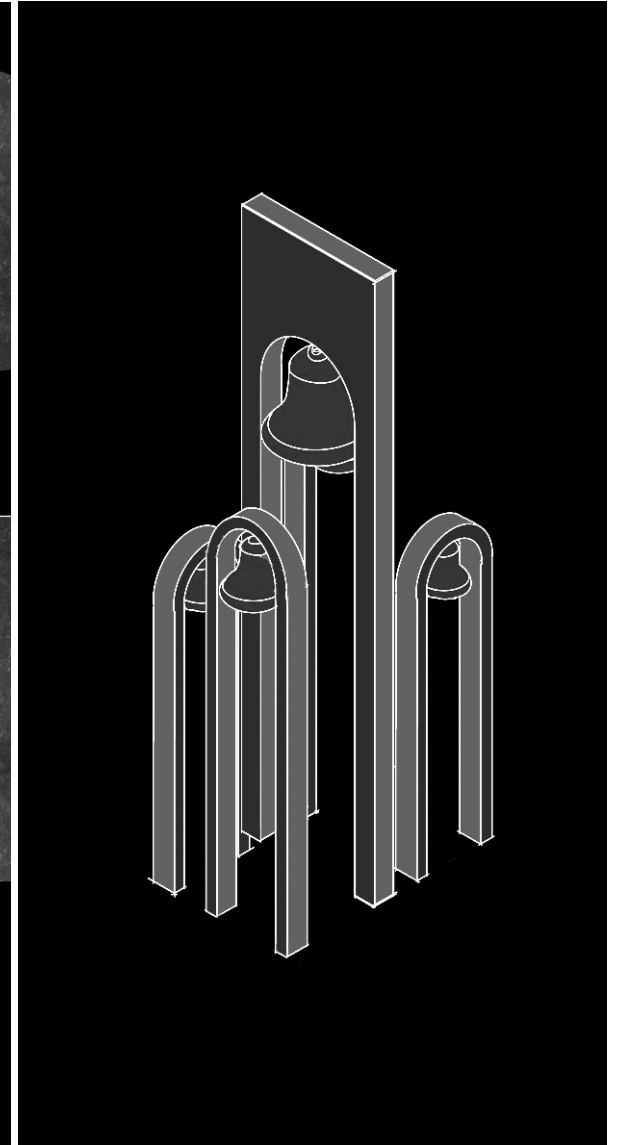
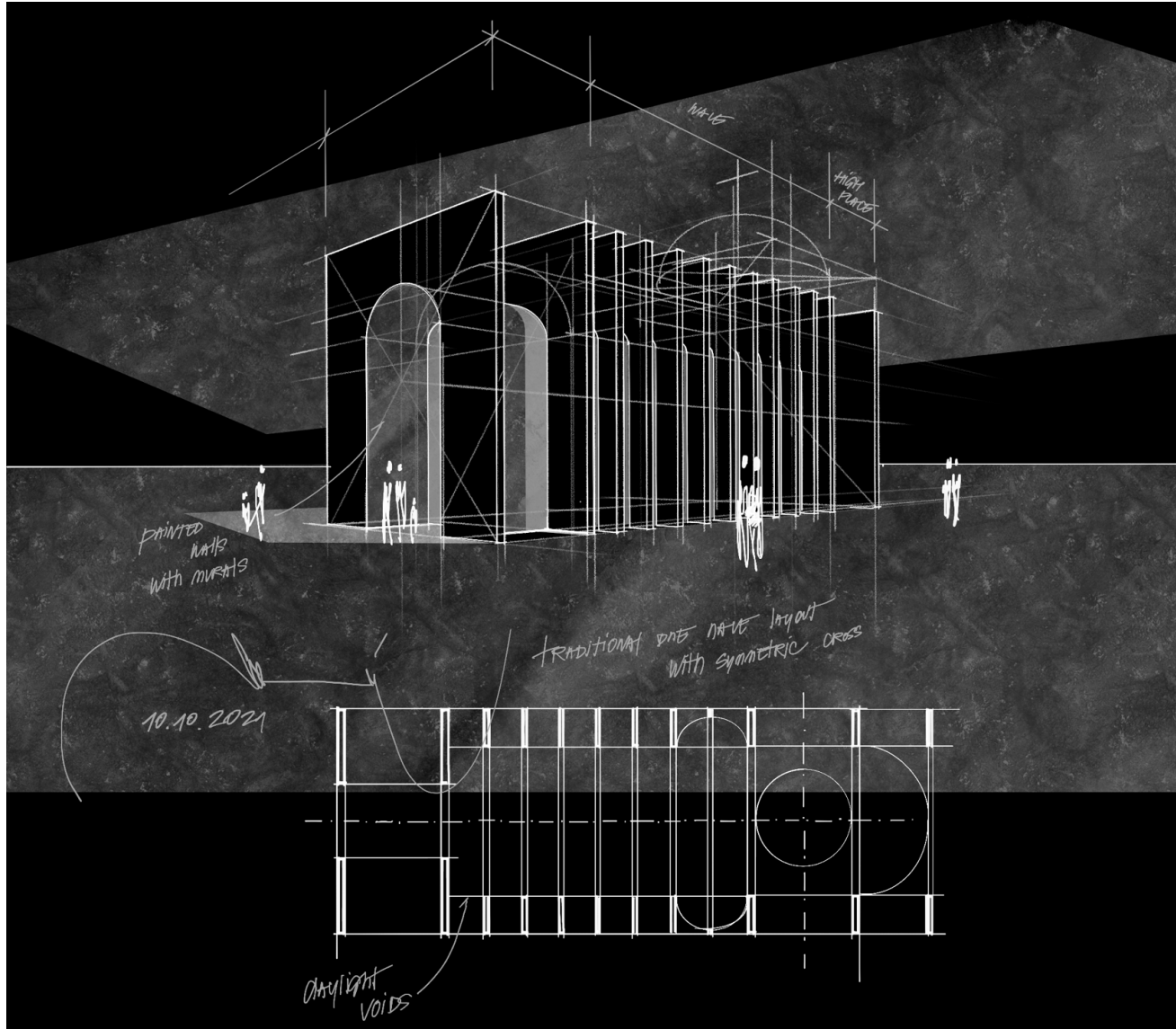
Project Overview

Rising above moldovan hills and landscape, **“Saint Arsenie the Great” church** reinterprets centuries of Orthodox sacred architecture through bold contemporary lens. Stripping away heavy ornamentation in favor of sculptural clarity, the design translates deep theological symbolism into clean, minimalist geometric forms, establishing a transformative new landmark for the region.



The story

One day the architect was asked if he could design an orthodox church. The task was extremely delicate, as the orthodox religion has very clear style and symbolism, as well the architectural boundaries. The answer came after few days and nights after the architect had a dream with the shape of the future church to rise above the hills: *"If I would design an orthodox church, it can only be like this."*, and presented his sketch to the investor. The design was aproved and the journey began.

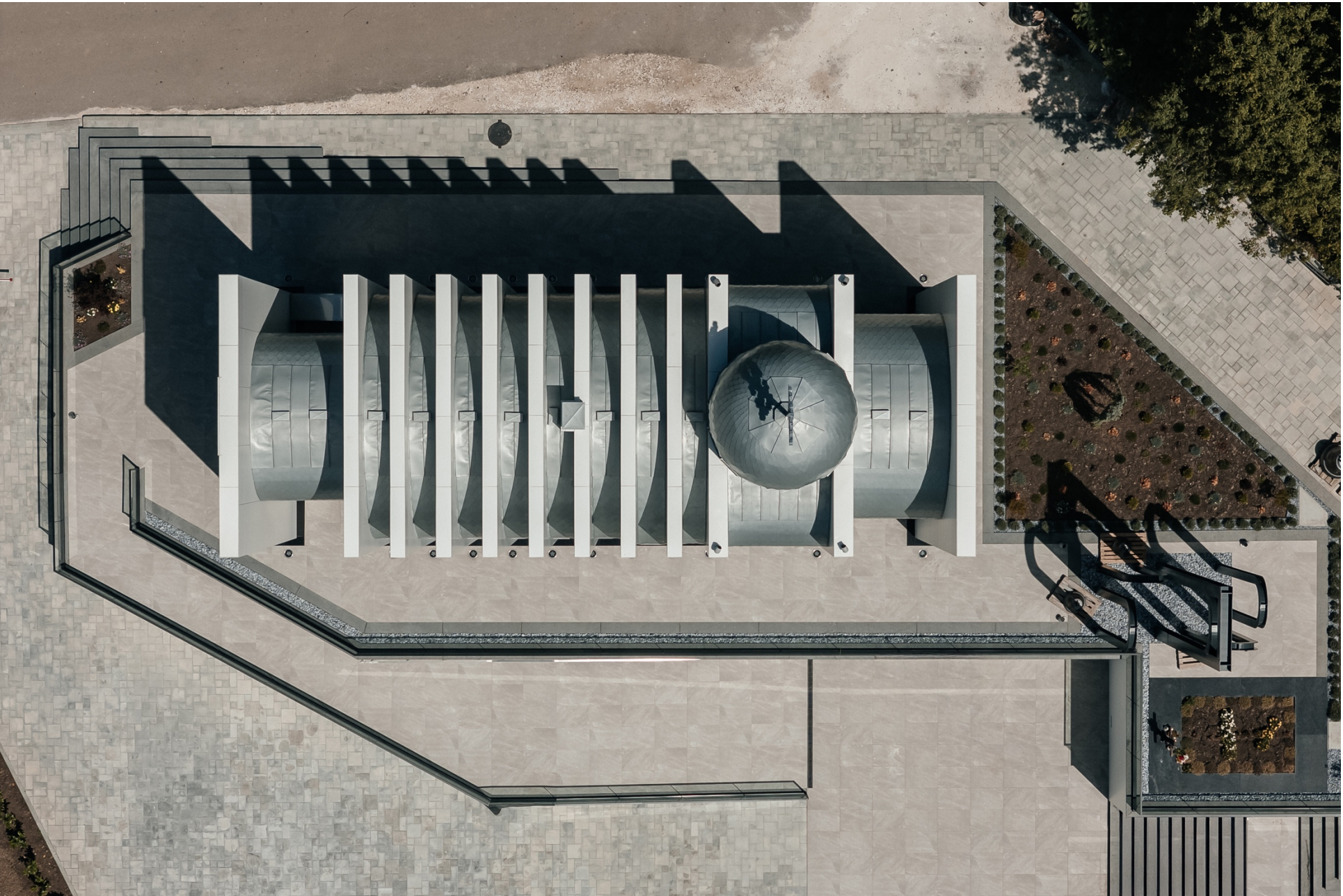


What can a sacred space look like when tradition is reinterpreted in a contemporary manner?

The project proposes a minimalist approach to the Neo-Byzantine style, shaped through clean volumes, simplified geometry, and a palette reduced to its essence. The central dome, crowned by a cross, becomes the symbolic focal point of a discreet and balanced composition.







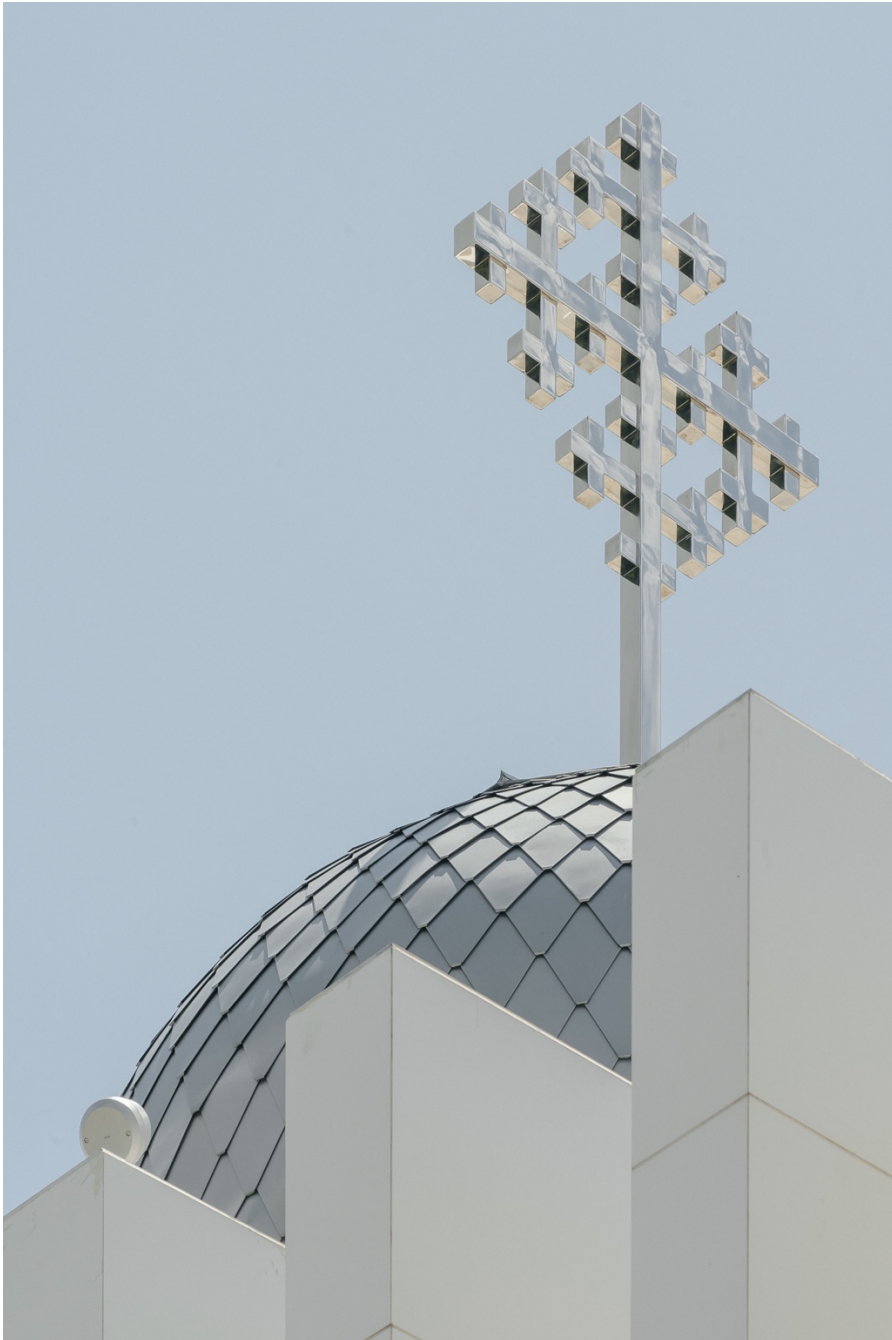
Key Architectural Concept & Symbolism

- **The Open Bible (Architectural Form):** The church's overall structure mimics the profile of an open sacred book, symbolising an invitation to spiritual wisdom and accessibility. The building's white vertical pillars resemble pages exposed to the sky, creating a dynamic interplay of light, shadow, and depth as the sun travels across the horizon.
- **The 12 Apostles (Structural Pillars):** The building envelope is anchored by **12 prominent vertical white pillars**. Beyond their structural purpose, these monolithic lines honor the 12 Apostles, serving as modern guardians of the inner sanctuary.



- **Harmonizing Tradition and Modernity:**

- **The Dome & Cross:** Resting seamlessly within the linear pillars is a single dome clad in metallic fish-scale tiles—a direct homage to traditional Orthodox roofing techniques—crowned by a geometric, multi-tiered stainless steel cross.



- **Iconography:** The main portal features a tall, narrow arched niche framing a traditional Orthodox mosaic icon “St. Arsenie the Great”, grounding the radical modern form in sacred art.



- **Materiality:** Pure white facade panels contrast against textured slate-grey metallic roofing, while clear glass railings along the surrounding ramp ensure unobstructed views of the countryside.





Site Integration & Spatial Experience

Situated on a prominent elevated site, the complex is designed to guide worshippers through a carefully orchestrated spatial journey:

1. **The Approach:** Processional outdoor granite steps and a universally accessible, multi-tiered ramp with clean glass railings lead visitors gradually up to the main platform.
2. **The Belfry:** Set slightly apart from the main hall, a modern open-arch steel bell tower rises from the plaza, reinterpreting traditional bell towers using sleek, minimalist arches.
3. **Landscape Integration:** The expansive, paved forecourt opens seamlessly into the surrounding natural hills and agricultural fields, framing sweeping panoramic views that reinforce the spiritual connection between earth and sky.

"Architecture becomes theology carved in light and space—a physical manifesto of faith designed to bridge timeless tradition with the language of the modern world."







The architectural plan reflects a highly disciplined, linear layout that translates traditional Orthodox spatial hierarchy into a modern, geometric scheme:

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- This architectural site plan illustrates a building complex with the following details:
- Dimensions and Layout:** The main building footprint is 16650 units wide and 6850 units deep. A large semi-circular feature is located on the right side. The overall site dimensions include a width of 19980 units and a depth of 6280 units.
 - Elevations and Slopes:**
 - Ground level is marked as +0.000.
 - Building level is marked as -0.100.
 - Foundation level is marked as -0.300.
 - Other elevations include -1.000, -1.600, and -2.600.
 - Slopes are indicated with arrows and values: 1°, 5°, 6°, 7°, 8°, 9°.
 - Site Features:**
 - A "Havuz" (pool) is located in the top left corner.
 - A "Zona verde" (green zone) is located on the right side.
 - A parking area with 8 spaces is located in the bottom right corner.
 - Orientation and Scale:**
 - A North arrow points towards the top right.
 - A scale bar at the bottom left indicates distances from 0 to 2.5 meters.

