

Studio nonstop is one of the foremost contemporary architectural practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina. With the capital Sarajevo as home base and principal work site, the architects of Studio nonstop have realized a number of impressive works since 1999, a selection of which can be found in this monograph. With their architectural and urban design work, they are contributing not only to the reconstruction of war-ravaged Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also to the reconstruction of an architectural culture of the Balkans, which was also thrown off balance by the civil war and the laborious transition from a stagnating socialism to an imperfect capitalism.

the
architecture
observer

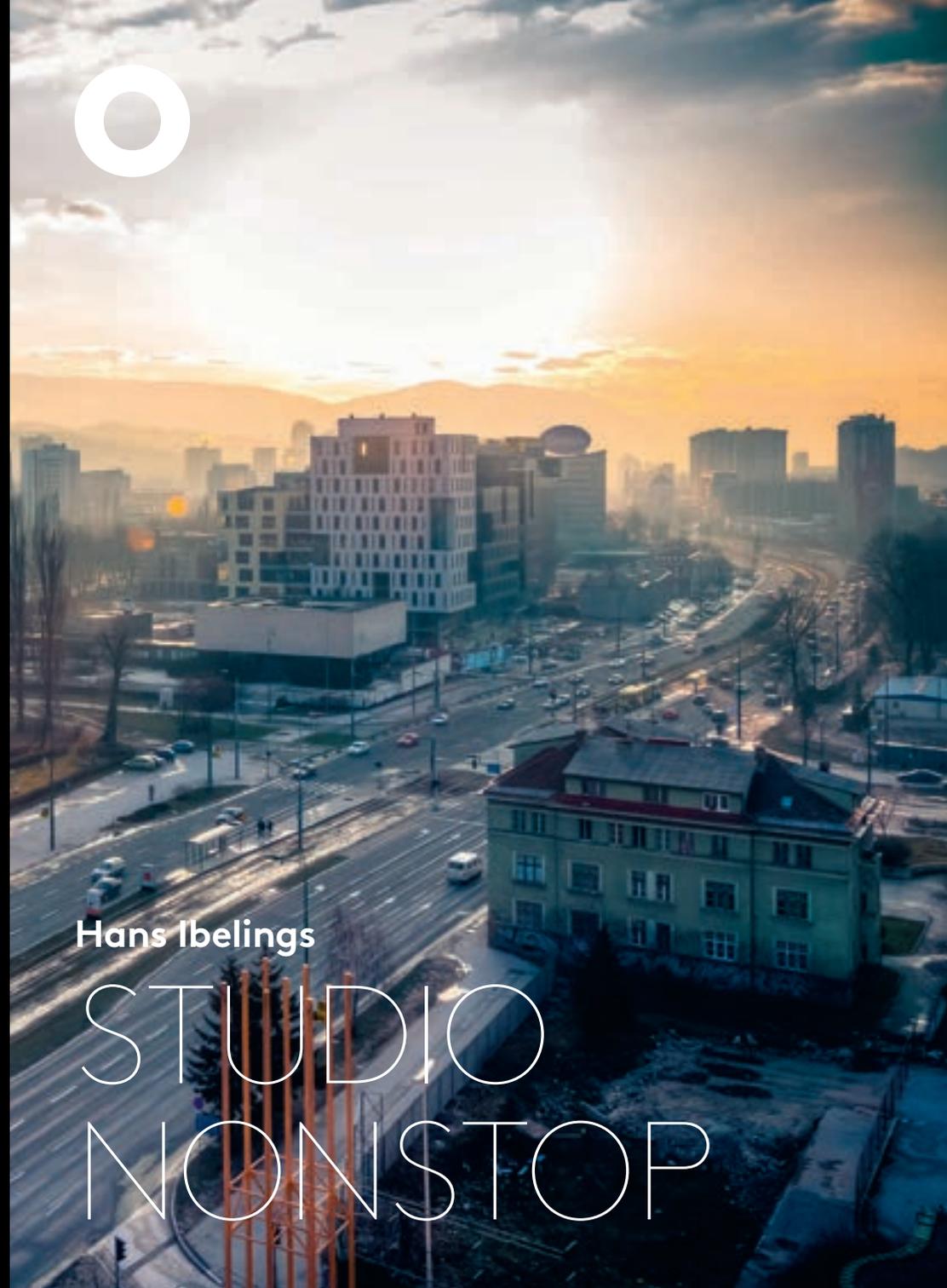


STUDIO NONSTOP



Hans Ibelings

STUDIO NONSTOP



MULTILAYERED CITY

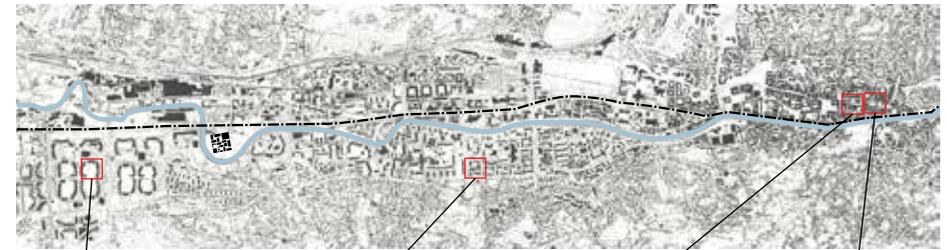
Otoka City Centre, Sarajevo
1996

This proposal for the development of Otoka as Sarajevo's secondary city centre, consists of a mega-block that is defined by the superposition of different historical matrixes drawn from the urban fabric of Sarajevo.

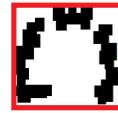
The new structure is inserted on a plot bounded by the Meše Selimovića boulevard and a bend in the Miljacka river in a part of the capital that originated in the 1970s but is still described as Novi Grad, the new city. It forms a compact segment of urbanity, which is otherwise absent here.

The model is an entry for a competition whose aim was to counterbalance the mono-functionality of the development by adding a varied programme of education, retail, sports, offices, hotels and social and religious facilities. In the proposal this urban programme has been given an equally urban shape. The general idea is the superimposition of different layers in the urban landscape: a longitudinal 'magnetic' strip accentuating the central zone, transverse lines structuring the landscape, points defining playgrounds for children and sports facilities, and the built substance of the mega-block. This block combines the free-standing towers from the residential developments of the 1960s with the scale of the squares and streets from Sarajevo's Austro-Hungarian period. The layout of tiny shops around the mosque takes its inspiration from the structure of the Charshija bazaar. The scale and atmosphere within the block reflects the high density and high diversity of the inner-city fabric of streets, alleys, squares, piazzettas and pocket parks. Compressing the built substance leaves room for thematic gardens, children's playgrounds and sports and recreation facilities.

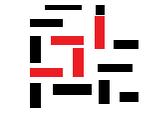
Client Kanton Sarajevo / Address Otoka bb, 71000 Sarajevo /
Architects Sanja Galić, Igor Grozdanić



Mega-block
from 1980s



Stick structure
from 1950-60s



City squares
from 18th-19th century

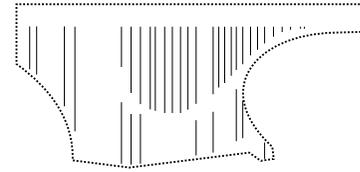
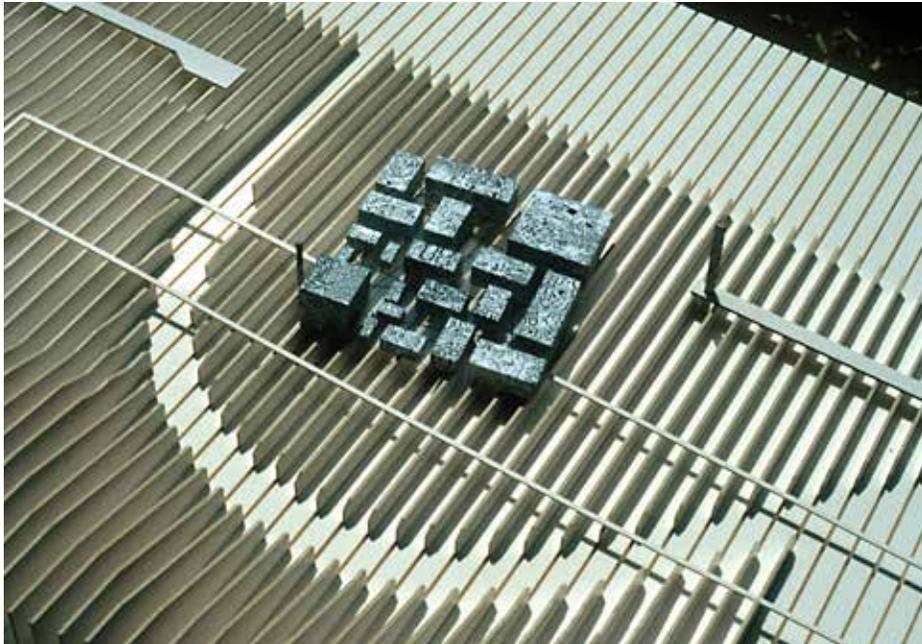


Charshija structure
from 16th-18th century

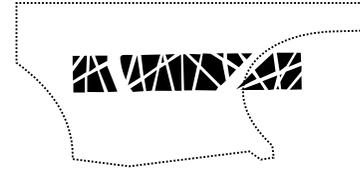


Superimposition of city matrix

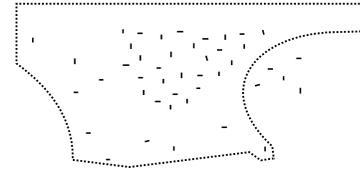




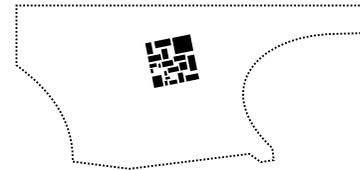
Transversal strips



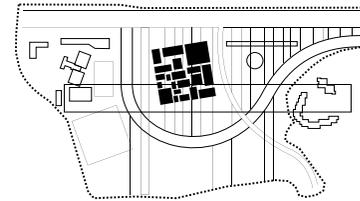
Longitudinal magnetic strip



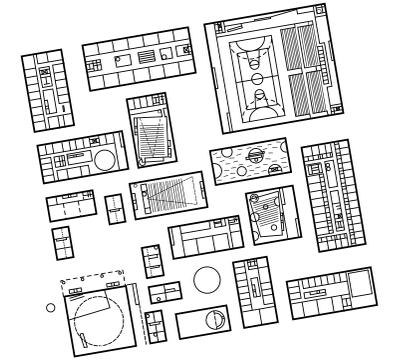
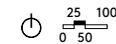
Point structure



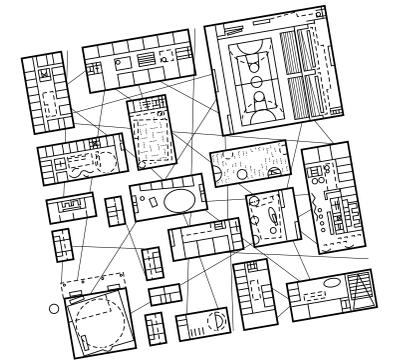
Physical structure



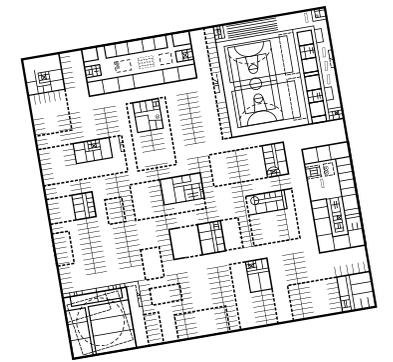
Superimposition/Site plan



First floor



Ground floor



Basement



BOSNIAN KNOT

Alta Shopping Centre, Sarajevo
2005–2010

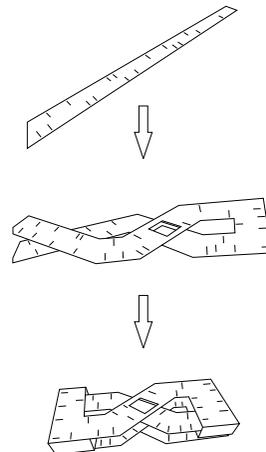
The Alta Shopping Centre is a folded continuous strip of shopping streets, which creates a dynamic three-dimensional structure for pedestrian flows. The shopping centre is located in Marijin Dvor, opposite the National Assembly and government buildings of Bosnia and Herzegovina and near one of the city's most prominent intersections. The very central location enables and compels the centre to function as an urban knot, a node in Sarajevo's urban life.

Alta, with shops, cafés and restaurants located over five levels – basement, ground floor and three upper floors – is firmly anchored in its urban context of large, free-standing objects and absorbs and continues existing pedestrian flows inside the mall. The permeability and transparency of the complex underline its integration with the city.

The presence of this diagonal pedestrian route offered a starting point for the spatial organization of the complex. In an indirect way, the diagonal also hints at the preexisting, nineteenth-century rail terminus with its crossings and railroad switches.

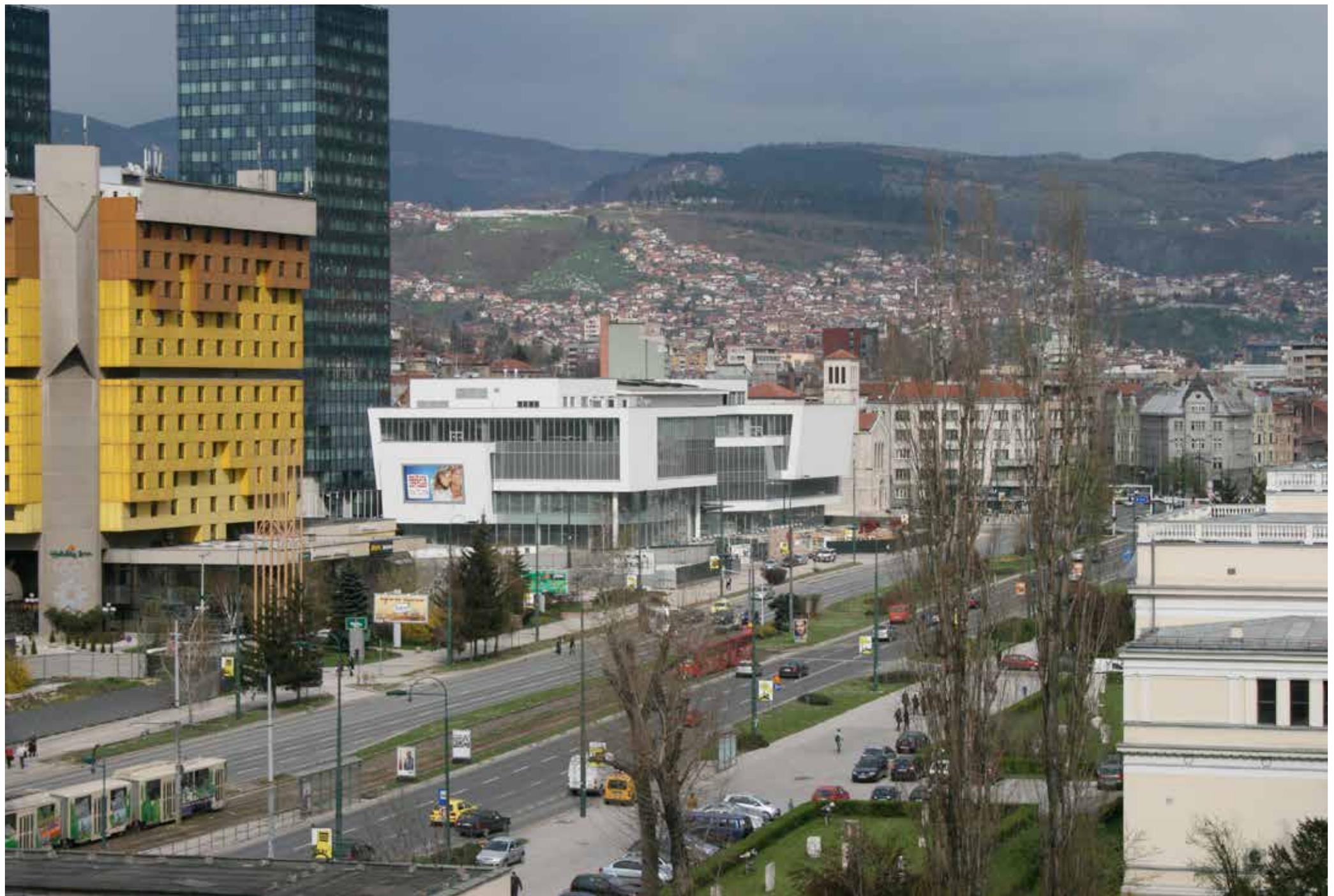
The alternation of glass and concrete in the exterior expresses the basic idea behind Alta, as a knot of folded shopping streets. The knot idea is further emphasized by the criss-crossing air bridges and escalators connecting the various levels in the central void of the shopping complex.

The shopping mall was conceived with white, 'museum' facades, uncommon for this type of commercial building, but appropriate for this important location.



Client Triland Development doo Sarajevo / Address Zmaja od Bosne 1,
71000 Sarajevo / Architects Sanja Galić, Igor Grozdanić / Team Edin
Avdibegović, Hasnija Kazić, Ardina Pondro, Zlatan Selimović





BALKAN PUZZLE

Importanne Centre, Sarajevo 2005–2010

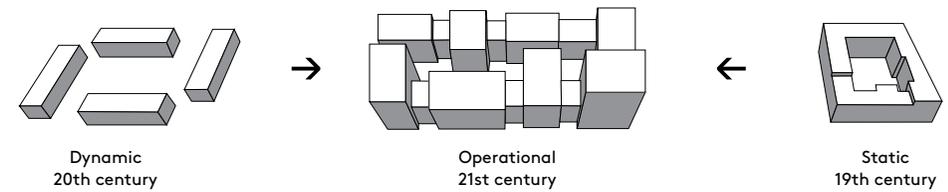
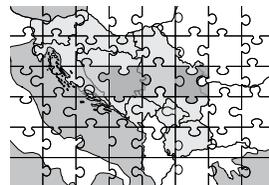
The Importanne Centre is a compressed composition of eight towers. The bites out of the volumes create the illusion of three-dimensional jigsaw pieces, part of an urban puzzle.

The complex is situated in the central Marijin dvor area, facing the city's main traffic artery. Importanne contains office space, a hotel, apartments, a shopping centre and an underground car park. Offices, dwellings and the hotel are located in the towers, which are functionally and formally independent but integrated in a single block. The vertical and horizontal circulation systems allow for a range of functional interconnections and clusters to meet market expectations and tenants' requirements. The towers share a base containing three levels of underground parking topped by three above-ground levels of shopping.

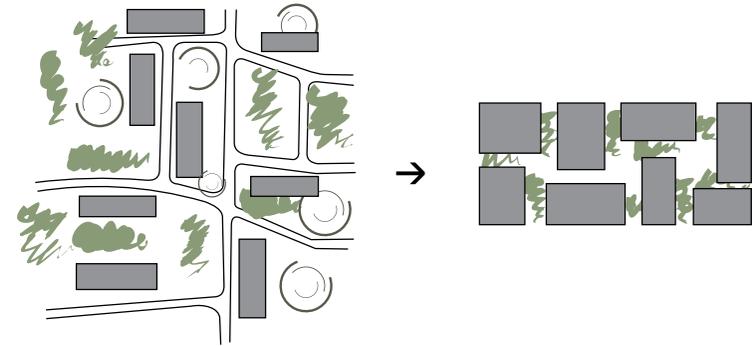
Importanne is a twenty-first-century hybrid that merges the static nineteenth-century perimeter block and the dynamic verticality of the twentieth-century office and apartment tower. This dualism is reinforced by the contextual use of material, with fibre-cement panels reminiscent of nineteenth-century stucco and glass curtain walls referencing modernist architecture. Each tower has its own expression, yet they combine to form a homogeneous overall composition. The absence of green space is compensated by compact green terraces and vertical gardens.

At a larger scale, the Importanne urban puzzle can be read as a symbol of the current social and political context of the region where, after the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia, new nations are struggling to find self-definition and where each country is like a jigsaw puzzle piece: unique and independent, yet undeniably connected to other pieces of the same Balkan puzzle.

Client Teloptic doo Sarajevo / Address Zmaja od Bosne 7,
71000 Sarajevo / Architects Sanja Galić, Igor Grozdanić / Team Edin
Avdibegović, Hasnija Kazić, Ilhana Poplata, Jasmina Topčagić



Compressed green space





IMPORTANNE

LEASING

LEASING

LINDX

Ulla Poppo

GERRY WEBER

IMPORTANNE CENTAR

BELISSIMO

КОНСТАНТИН

LINDX

ИМПОРТАННЕ