Marketplace in the global city - Warsaw

Reflection

The relationship between research and design

The designed building is a hybrid building, of which the most important function is the public marketplace. This project evolved parallel to the research, which in many aspects influenced the design proposal.

The main part of a research focused on the phenomenon of the permanent urban marketplace in Warsaw. In particular, I was trying to understand the nature of the conflict between the markets and the city and why these places disappear from the map of Warsaw. The answer for these questions helped me to structuralize the basis for the design proposal: location and the general program of the building.

Secondly, in the research I was discovering the reality of marketplace, finding out about its history, culture, economy and its meaning in the contemporary urban settlements. This part gave me an insight to a very vast knowledge of the person-to-person trade and how it developed over centuries. It also turned my attention to the architectural typologies of buildings serving for trade in the city (markets of many shops): bazaars, market halls and arcades. Those historical types provided me with an inspiration for the architectural form and the atmosphere of the designed building.

The most specific part of the research is the spatial analysis of eight examples of permanent marketplaces, chosen as case studies. I asked myself question about the features of built environment that made marketplaces an attractive and vibrant public space. By means of mapping and on-site observations I came up with the series of parameters and physical elements that had been incorporated into design process.

The relationship between the project and the wider social context

The research together with the design experiment address a common issue of decline of publicly recognized and appreciated spaces as a result of the dynamics of political, social and economic changes. The design, therefore is an attempt to reconcile different interests that occur the urban context, in an unique architectural proposal.