Lightness...within Complexity
Lightness

Definition;
- The quality of having little weight.
- The quality of being gentle or delicate in style.
1. Skopje: Oppositions
A Confused (?) Expression

Image: Sophie Hefti
Kenzo Tange Masterplan
‘The Capital of Brutalism’

Image: Sophie Hefti
Writing and Re-writing the City

Image: Sophie Hefti
The 3 ‘Earthquakes’

1963 earthquake
Kenzo Tange Masterplan
Skopje 2014
A Lack of Continuity.
The 3 eras of Skopje

The Old Bazaar - Ottoman empire

Socialist Yugoslavia - Brutalism

Skopje 2014 - Neoclassical
In Tension

MONOLITHIC
- internalized western influence, domination
- impermeable surfaces, closing image
- hierarchical territoriality, directionality
- monumental, formalistic, wide open space

ORGANIC
- tradition, tight-knit, specificities
- immersive, inclusive, space, co-woven
- interwoven, ritual, memory, layers, stability
- porous, territorial by layer, difference
- interconnected, edges, for everything

HOW?
how do we mediate between these
specificity and generality, then?
HEAVY;
- of great density; thick or substantial.
- not delicate or graceful; coarse.
- serious or difficult to deal with.
Everyday life goes on
How can architecture act as a mediator within a complex built fabric, to unite disparate buildings and promote social integration?
2. Location
Ethnic Divide

- Percentage of Macedonians
  - Centre: 85%
  - Cair: 25-35%

- Percentage of Albanian-Macedonians
  - Centre: 2-5%
  - Cair: 55%
The In-between

Natural Border

Cair Centre

85%

25-35%

2-5%

55%

District Border
Buildings Across the Eras
From Thoroughfare to Web
Josic Candilis Woods

How can architecture act as a mediator within a complex built fabric, to unite disparate buildings and promote social integration?

- The ability to grow/ change and adapt
- Neutrality between existing complexity
- Creates unity without homogenisation - honours the complexity
*In mat building, function and events configure space, rather than the architectural frame, which remains relatively neutral. This is an austere, bare-bones architecture distinguished by new patterns of social association.*

(Allen, 2001)
Void Spaces

GIC

The Old Bazaar
3. Project
1. Columns
Focus areas
Reflection
Heavy, with time architecture gains weight. This is both for the good and bad. I realised that this expression did not act as I hoped for, its bulky dimensions and materiality in line with the structuralist approach block views and are not successful in uniting the existing. As I was said earlier I hoped that the building could be a mediator between the existing. To aim for a neutrality. Projects like candellis Josic Woods aimed also to be neutral but with time projects become heavier. Heavier literally as architecture as and technology have advanced, dimensions can now be much more slender. But also heavy with meaning, it becomes tied up within an era and what came with that era. This project would be in line with the Kenzo Tange masterplan and therefore not neutral.

Aiming for Neutrality

"In mat building, function and events configure space, rather than the architectural frame, which remains relatively neutral. This is an austere, bare-bones architecture distinguished by new patterns of social association" -
Lightness
Vijversburg Visitor Centre
Junya Ishigami
Integrating with Surroundings

The Old Bazaar - Ottoman Empire

Socialist Yugoslavia - Brutalism

Skopje 2014 - Neoclassical
Modular Elements

Steel Reinforcement
Rods and nails

Precast hollow-core concrete panels

Lime Mortar

White Steel Column and I-beam

Structural glass fin

Glazing Panels

Terracotta floor Tiles
Reflection
4. The Market
Longitudinal Section
A Light-weight Structure
1 Hollowcore concrete pre-cast panels
2 Steel Pins
3 30m Steel Rods
4 120/120mm steel I beam
5 Steel connection bracket
6 120/120mm Steel closed column
Central Courtyard and Terrace
Coping
Terracotta Balustrade
600mm Intensive system substrate
Filter sheet
Floradrain filled with Zinolit Plus
Protection Mat
120mm Insulation layer
Water-proof Membrane
Pre-fabricated hollow core concrete
100mm Steel, White coated I beam
White Steel Window frame
Drain pipe

1
2
3
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11
12
Food Market Hall
Modular Assembly
1. 300/300mm terracotta floor tiles
2. 120/120mm closed column
3. Steel cementious floor panels
4. 30/30mm Steel Stringer
5. Steel pedestals
6. Steel column footing
7. Reinforced concrete slab foundation
Ventilation Strategy

Summer

Winter

Heat Exchanger
1 Concrete insulated Sandwich panel with steel mesh truss connector
2 200mm hollowcore concrete prefabricated panel
3 100mm Steel I-beam
4 Galvanised Steel Bracket
5 100mm Square Steel Column
6 200/15mm Structural Glass fin
5. Connecting to Skanderbeg Square
Workshops and Green House
Skanderbeg Square - Current Situation

1500 old Hammam
Today- National Art Gallery
Winter Garden
Thank you