Conclusion—Answer of sub-research questions

1. How to conceptualize public spaces in Mostar for this project?

As explained in the theoretical background part, the public space in this project refers to the places where people can spontaneously come and experience public and individual activities in their daily life, including open spaces in a broad sense and also semi-public places under roof like coffee seats along the street. Specially in this site, the Neretva River and bridges are also seen as public spaces as they are also public gathering spots.

2. How to understand the mental division through public space analysis?

The mental division is presented in the ethnic distribution and public service system distribution. Bosnians and Croatians are distributed in the east and west banks and have respective public service institutions. But the mental division can also shown in the use of public spaces. Compared with the past, people are less actively gather on the boulevard, which was the front line during the civil war. It is on one hand due to the poor quality ruined abandoned areas on the boulevard, on the other hand due to the ruined images that evoke the war-related memories.

3. How to make use of the remaining historic heritage elements to bring history and memory to the public space?

Public buildings and public infrastructures are of considerable historical value. Firstly, the images of themselves are symbolic languages reflecting corresponding history, like the temporary bridges are related to war period and the old station is related to prosperous period in beginning of last century. Emphasising these images aims at recalling knowledge and memory of the history. Secondly, native materials and heritage elements are used to rebuild the environment reflecting the scenes in the past. When people get into the spaces, outer environment would stimulate the memory people having between themselves and the heritages and spaces.

4. How could the designed public space contribute to a more cohesive society? How can it contribute to tackle the existing mental divisions in the city?

According to the strategies, the objective is achieved by three aspects.

From physical aspect, transport network and public space network in the city are improved and more continuous public spaces would guide the people flow to meet. This is also the most basic aspect of this project.

From use aspect, the cleaning and redesign of the ruined area make people reduce the fear memory arising from the ruined ground scenery but regard the ruins and heritages as new active public spaces.

From mental aspect, recalling city history and collective memory can tie the public again with their city and further bring them some thoughts about the current division situation and probable future.
focus on valuable historical remains and maximize their physical connection. This part of intervention works is the basic foundation and structure of the design for enhancing the bond of this network. This part of intervention would bring people together by collecting basic foundation and background activities.

2. Whether the design share the big goal of the graduation lab? As described in the lab guide: 

The lab focuses on the relation to the city, starting from the war because the war was violent and extraordinary spatial condition that significantly changed the city, Mostar, human existence and living here. This part helps to have a better and deeper understanding of the challenge and working objects, exploring a promising theoretical framework and research path results from conclusions and the strategies work as the tool to guide and support the design. The main research question is: How can the historical and social value of public spaces in Mostar be enhanced by working area and also strategies. All the potentials coming from three aspects (the strategy): 1) history and memory (historical aspect); 2) activity (social aspect); 3) network continuity (physical aspect). In the physical aspect intervention, an improving pedestrian network is developed to connect the east and west bank, beside which public spaces are distributed. This pedestrian network would be narrow in a reconstructed building at a most popular site on the boulevard. Different native flower species are chosen by their therapeutic value in dealing with different emotions. The prospect to show the collective memories when flowers bloom would not be shown in a best way because of different fluorescence, but as a way to create a memory landscape. This memory landscape would show a collective memory and function to evoke collective memory; while looking towards the traffic network in the future, this memory landscape. This small memory planting landscape can play the role in memory moment to gather people.

This project share the perspective that regarding Nezarie as a living archive, and exist as the target area from river into a design assignment that in itself will add to the living archive. As described in the lab guide: "The lab focuses on the relation to the city, starting from the war because the war was violent and extraordinary spatial condition that significantly changed the city, Mostar, human existence and living here. This part helps to have a better and deeper understanding of the challenge and working objects, exploring a promising theoretical framework and research path results from conclusions and the strategies work as the tool to guide and support the design. The main research question is: How can the historical and social value of public spaces in Mostar be enhanced by working area and also strategies. All the potentials coming from three aspects (the strategy): 1) history and memory (historical aspect); 2) activity (social aspect); 3) network continuity (physical aspect). In the physical aspect intervention, an improving pedestrian network is developed to connect the east and west bank, beside which public spaces are distributed. This pedestrian network would be narrow in a reconstructed building at a most popular site on the boulevard. Different native flower species are chosen by their therapeutic value in dealing with different emotions. The prospect to show the collective memories when flowers bloom would not be shown in a best way because of different fluorescence, but as a way to create a memory landscape. This memory landscape would show a collective memory and function to evoke collective memory;"