

1.0 Site Plan A Metamorphic Grid

This project is about variety, change and metamorphosis...

...it's about stitching the city together through this site, creating a vibrant district and achieving this through a living grid structure. The grid layout forms and organizing masterplan for the entire area that enables flexibility and change to take place within.

A grid provides structure and order but also allows for variety and change within. We have described this as a living grid, as it should allow city life to thrive and develop. Residents and visitors can occupy, personalise and enjoy a mosaic of different spaces and places. The ConfEx park becomes not just an Exhibition area but a public hub for the city.

We have created a grid and sub-grid that provides a framework to respond to the needs of your brief whilst locating the different building types on the site. This organizing masterplan creates an efficient, flexible and adaptable structure where different uses can be modified and interchanged over time. In essence it allows for a metamorphosis of the site to reach its highest potential: a metamorphic grid.





Metamorphic Masterplan... ...Woven into the City Creating a Living Grid... ...A Mosaic of Possibilities Elegant floating roof planesSailing over the site

Understanding the Urban Grain

The basis of our proposal is rooted in:

- A sound understanding of the urban development and historic layering of the site, its context and the wider city of Thessaloniki.
- The present-day urban grain of the surrounding area and the importance placed on both the axis between the sea and mountains, and the extension of the church axis as part of the site's masterplan.

Located at the fringes of Hebard's Beaux Art plan, the redevelopment and scale of the Expo site brings the opportunity to introduce a new urban grid. One which

will provide an underlying template for organising the new buildings and landscape, whilst reconciling the connecting the East and West Sectors of the City.

This new grid is defined by the Axis of Hagia Sofia Church – AAMTH, which runs parallel to the coastline; and the Museum Axis which runs perpendicular to the coastline and connects the sea to the mountains.

The decision to 'turn' the grid was made to allow for the efficient spatial planning of the Exhibition Halls on the Plots defined by the Masterplan $(I_1, I_2, 2 \& 4)$.

The City & Site Today

 Modern European grain surrounds the Ano Poli historic old town. A characterful blend of old and new.





- Pre 1917 City Plan
- The Medieval / Ottoman city layout before the Fire of 1917 and the subsequent Hebrard Masterplan





1000 m



500 m

Masterplan by Ernest Hebrard (French), Circa 1917

It is the basis of today's city layout, although was never fully completed.

- Beaux-Arts inspired layout
- 'European Metropolis'
- Demolished medieval / Ottoman street layout
- Formal boulevards, symmetry
- Central axis carefully composed around important ancient Byzantine churches & mosques.



Learning from Thessaloniki's Varied Landscape

Enclosed plazas &

Framed

The landscaping approach addresses three different aspects of the site:

- 1. At a macro scale it is about linking the east and west urban grain of the city through a green landscaped zone that also connects the mountains to the sea.
- 2. It provides a flexible interchangeable series of outdoor green spaces that can be designed to respond to the different needs of the city and your brief.
- 3. It should enhance well-being and promote ecology and sustainability through native landscaping and the use of green facades and low carbon materials.

The site has a great opportunity to 'complete' this green corridor and frame the vistas to and from the sea with landscaped, tree-lined routes. We want to enhance

Linear landscaped

Natural



Creating a palette of local planting, vegetation and trees for the scheme:



the public realm and create a variety of different outdoor rooms with a palette of native landscape species and of tree-lined streets, plants and shrubs that create different colours, textures and aromas - a celebration of the culture and vibrancy of Thessaloniki. Fragrant gardens of lavender, thyme and sage are complemented by lines of olive and pine trees.

The imposed grid blurs the boundaries between landscape and building, indoor and outdoor. It creates a framework for the Expo site to be broken down and fragmented into a mosaic of different types of spaces and places and is highly adaptable and reactive to future requirements. Gardens on the ground, gardens on the roof – a series of landscaped terraces and green roofs form a network across the site.

A Mosaic of Parks

Thessaloniki: A Mosaic of Cultures and Religions:

In the historical centre we can identify 6 Religions that left their mark in the city with their places of worship and their neighbourhoods: Islam, Orthodox Christian, Evangelical, Catholic, Jewish, Armenian. Since its foundation numerous of cultures, nations and religions have lived and thrived in the "bride of Thermaikos".



All the parks of the city are reflected in the new ConfEx park

Thessaloniki is a Kaleidoscope of experiences

The city provides a rich mix of experiences for the visitor combining unique culinary tastes collected from all different civilizations, historical monuments spanning 2300 years. The new ConfEx park will be a mosaic of the city's surrounding landscaped area, reflecting its layers of history.

The power of Thessaloniki is the constant Metamorphosis it undergoes:

This allows the diverse and the new to flourish and evolve. The proposed solution follows this principle creating a vessel for the change to be received, to be established, to grow. The masterplan embraces time as a 4th dimension in the design and addresses the future of the city in the same manner that the Metropolis has taught. We have provided a flexible and adaptable system for both the architecture and landscape to change over time; it is not a fixed design.

A variety of local tree species with low water demand to suit the arid climate are used to line pedestrian streets and provide shade: olive, blossom, and pine trees.

A mosaic of shrubs and fragrant herbs: lavender, sage and thyme. The grid also provides flexible spaces for hard landscaping, water features playgrounds and kiosks.

Initial Ideas

Creating a Mosaic of interchangeable and adaptable spaces.

- Activating space with the Living Grid
- Blueprint for highly efficient special planning
- A flexible and future-adaptable module
- Allowing for Change

The masterplans axial routes were used to develop a series of planning grid studies (below) which could be applied to the site. These sought to provide an underlying organising principle for the new buildings and landscaped areas. Efficient buildings, functional event, spaces and micro-parks are incorporated to activate the grid.

The concept of the Mosaic extends beyond the planning of the site's buildings, and is representative of the diversity of cultures and variety of different spaces found throughout Thessaloniki. It will build on and enhance the historic layering of the city.

From a practical perspective, following an underlying grid makes for highly-efficient spaces, servicing and structure. Allowing for large open-spans, logistical planning which support the site's core functions as an world-class exhibition venue.

A concept of a 'dual grid' of two converging axis was developed forward, aligning best to the natural forms of the site and maximising the potential for adaptation and change in the future.





Design Development

Modular Architecture: a kit of parts

This grid also informs the character of the buildings from the beautiful and elegant overlapping roof planes of the exhibition spaces to the modular self shaded wooden facades inset with vertical planting. These together create a prefabricated kit of parts across the site allowing for rapid construction, high quality and lower costs.

The modular exhibition halls have moveable partitions under a light weight roof structure. The roof could host a variety of elements, including planted areas, apertures for natural daylight, opening for passive ventilation and angled PV cells.

Gardens: a mosaic of plant types and spaces

The gardens are about creating variety and vibrancy. Within our grid there are a series of outdoor rooms with a variety of different experiences. Some are intimate planted spaces, others more open with views to the sea. There are dry spaces and lush spaces, olive groves and lavender gardens, places for people to sit and enjoy the park or for children to play. Some areas are quiet and for reflection, others more busy for events.

The streets area tree lined to help to create outdoor exhibition spaces, emphasising the entrance experience. Seating is human scaled, such as those in the commercial business district with awnings and indoor/outdoor facades and green roof terraces.





Axial view to the AAMTH building, framed by the exhibition buildings.



Elegant Roofs Planes... Shading the Buildings and Streets



Projecting horizontal roof planes provide a sheltered micro-climate.





Shaded axial routes link into the surrounding urban grain of the city.

A SAL MAN

The streets have tree lined routes helping to create outdoor exhibition spaces emphasizing the entrance experience as well as human scaled seating areas such as those in the commercial business district with awnings and indoor/outdoor facades and green roof terraces.

Roof Gardens for VIP Congress Events with views across to the city and sea

3.0 Technical & Structure

Modular Roof Grid

Roofscape: elegant sailing roof planes frame the axial routes

The roofscape creates a series of horizontal planes out of characterful lightweight elements. The roof areas comprise modular interchangeable elements that allow for natural light into the exhibition spaces, angled PV cells to generate energy and planted zones to encourage local wildlife habitats and diversity.

This also creates a series of striking roof planes that reflect the sunlight and sky throughout the day animating Heli Expo and giving it a strong presence, sense of place and recognisable profile on Thessaloniki's skyline.

An Adaptable Mosaic Grid

An underlying sub grid creates a module the allows for a variety of different spaces and functions - a mosaic of possibilities:

- From highly efficient functional and adaptable exhibition buildings
- To vibrant human scaled tree lined streets and commercial spaces
- Along with a variety of different landscape spaces and outdoor experiences



Step 1 -18x18m Step 2 9x9m 9m Step 3 4.5x4.5m

18m



Grid Module Design Principle

1. The underlying Living Grid model is based on a structurally efficient 18x18m grid. Where required, this can achieve a 54m clear-span to flexible exhibition spaces.

2. This grid is quartered to form a roof module repeated across the site, connecting together to form large-span, structure-free spaces.

3. The grid module is further broken down. This subsequent sub-division creates the mosaic framework.

Canopy Section Concept



Infill Modules - Roof Activation

Infill Type: Roof Light



A3 Report

4.0 Sustainability

Mission Statement

The Thessaloniki ConfEx Park project is a monumental opportunity from a holistic sustainability perspective. Commissioning an infrastructure project of this scale amid the Climate and Biodiversity emergencies requires any proposals to respond responsibly to the challenges, and opportunities, of creating thriving spaces in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and within our planetary boundaries. Its large-scale presence within the city bestows it the responsibility of integrating to, and enriching the existing communities and characters, whilst its diverse human-oriented functions require subtlety and nuanced details. We propose to successfully mediate between these scales through deploying a rationalised regular grid across the site which will define the spatial language of the Thessaloniki ConfEx Park and help articulate the key axis at a more human scale.

We believe that a good building lasts longest, and part of the qualification for 'good' is its ability to become relevant to the needs of the moment through supporting adaptation. Whilst the anticipated uses of these significant urban interventions are understood, these are only their initial uses. Constructing buildings is a costly process; for finances, time, materials, and carbon emissions and we have therefore designed our proposal with adaptability in mind, so that the flexible, long-spanning building systems built on day 1 will stand the tests of time whilst best prepared for catering for the rich opportunity of future uses.

The diagram below encapsulates they key strategic moves in our approach to integrating sustainability in the design.





Car-free tree-lined avenues promote active transport including electric bicycles across the site, reducing emissions and improving local air quality. Green corridors and spaces created using climate-appropriate planting and xeriscaping to minimise irrigation demands whilst supporting improved biodiversity. Shading and evapotranspiration from planting helps create pleasant micro-climates and improves local air quality. Ability to enhance fresh air supply to benefit comfort and well-being. Circular economy principals will re-use demolished building material on-site at its highest material worth.











Highly

efficient

building

systems.



4.0 Sustainability

Landscaping Features

Sustainability is underpinned by system boundaries that define its sphere of influence, be it positively or negatively. We see the system boundaries of the Thessaloniki ConfEx Park extending far beyond the extensive site boundary of the master plan. The established three pillars of sustainability; economic, social, and environmental are still relevant and important lenses through which to evaluate sustainability.

We have begun mapping how our proposal will knit into, and support the existing peripheral economies of cafes, hotels, and businesses. Environmentally, our proposal joins the dots between a pattern of existing green streets and parks – creating green infrastructure that will benefit people and the local fauna and flora. The creation of the Thessaloniki ConfEx Park offers a unique social value opportunity to crystallise the green recovery to the global pandemic that global communities have been calling through. Local skills can be developed through a construction skills academy, investing in people, employment and a just transition to a green economy excelling in modern methods of prefabrication and the circular economy.

But the science has also clearly told us that efforts to date for sustainability have unfortunately been insufficient, and that the damage caused needs to be reversed through regenerative efforts. This is obviously core to the concept of the Thessaloniki ConfEx Park, in regenerating the tired and dated offerings on site.

Biodiversity too needs regenerating, and our proposals look to enjoy the symbiotic

benefits for both people and the local fauna and flora through biodiverse and resilient public realms.

We are committed to 'Net Zero' which encapsulates both in-use operational energy emission and the embodied carbon emissions from construction. We are experienced in quantifying both complex challenges and driving them down throughout a project's stages through collaborative strategies across the design team disciplines.

Bioclimatic design is central to optimising human comfort and in-use operational emissions through passive design solutions including thermal mass and night-time cooling. Our proposals are based on specific analysis of the site's conditions and opportunities and have informed both macro and micro design considerations from building massing and arrangements to the angle of the roof-lights. Thessaloniki's solar radiation exposure and the carbon intensity of the grid electricity make PVs very suitable, and our proposals feature a mega PV array which will power both the buildings and a fleet of electric bicycles to encourage active transport across the site and beyond.

We are also acutely aware that offsetting of carbon emissions must only be seen as a last resort once these emissions have been driven down as low as possible and we have delivered projects to the most onerous and progressive industry standards.



5.0 Materiality & Economy

Modularised Systems and Reduced Energy Demands

We have designed the project as a flexible and adaptable 'kit of parts' that follows a modularised grid type system. This system can be prefabricated off-site and interchanged allowing for rapid construction, high quality and lower costs.

We have deliberately kept the servicing and design of the buildings to be functional, orthogonal and efficient to allow for change and ease of operation.

Materials used would either be from sustainable sources close to the Heli-expo site with an emphasis on sustainable materials such as CLT timber as well as creating highly insulated walls from the rubble of demolished buildings on the existing site. The palette of materials would be inexpensive, long lasting and durable, with stone, metal, timber and shaded glass elements.

Glazing could be controlled and where used would be shaded behind warm timber brise soleil structures that can be inhabited by smaller kiosks and pavilions to allow for activation of streets even when no events take place. Above certain solid wall areas could be planted with greenery and vines.

The roof planes could comprise a mixture of very lightweight minimal use of steel along with recycled aluminium roof panels, PV cells and sedum 'green roof' areas that encourage bio-diversity and local wildlife habitats.

We also propose the extensive use of native plants and trees throughout the project which helps to soften the overall appearance of the project as well as creating healthy human scaled streets with dappled shade and fragrant gardens that change over the seasons.

How can we Re-Purpose the Existing Buildings on Site to Reduce Embodied Carbon?

Step 1: Understanding the Existing Buildings on Site



From our initial analysis:

- The site comprises of a collection of buildings at various stages in their lifecycles and suitability.
- In-efficient in terms of spatial use & environmental control
- To retain many would interupt the masterplans' proposed axes





Step 2: Re-Use / Re-Purpose

Our Proposal

Re-Purpose the fabric of the existing buildings into a series of Gabion Walls • Reduces material sent to landfill

- Creates Thermal Mass to passively regulate interior spaces Improves human comfort levels, reduces operational energy bills and helps estate achieve net zero ambitions Can be used as retaining walls to
- address site's sloping topography



Internal CLT Timber Structure for Exhibition Halls

The thermal mass of the gabion walls reduces cooling demands:

Exhibition Hall (NIGHT)

Thermal Mass



Gabions form Strong Linear Elements Reinforce the New Living Grid







Filtered light through gabion walls

Exhibition Hall (DAY) Thermal Mass

Operable Glazing





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			SECTORS I & II		SECT	JR III	SECTO)RIV	SECTO	JR V	TOT	AL
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A. Genera	l Metrics											
A1 Abc	ove Ground GFA (m²)	34850	8750	max 48.500	26575	max 26.750	15640	max 16.500	245	max 250	86060	max 92.000 excl. preserved bldgs
A2 Bel	ow Ground Parking use GFA (m ²)	11990	NA	1	24300	,	14900		NA	,	51190	
A3 Bel	ow Ground other Aux uses GFA (m ²)	9720	2835	1	3400	,	1950		NA	,	17,905	,
A4 Net	t Floor Area NFA (m ²)	34250	8380	1	24075	,	15270		205		82180	
A5 Bui	lding Coverage ratio (%) & Area (m²)	46% / 18150	52% / 8750	,	54% / 10850	max 60% - 12.020,40	70% / 9800		0.005% / 275	,	30% / 47825	max 45% - 64.000 excl. AAMTH – pres.bldgs
A6 Grc	ss Volume above Ground (m ³)	326700	105000	1	172600	,	176400		1375		687575	-
A7 For	indations Footprint (m ²)	4000	1750		4060	,	1340		280			
A8 Faç	ade (m²)	15200	4750	1	17300	,	13300		360			
A9 Ext	erior Openings (m ²)	3000	1000	1	7720	,	1560		110	,	1	,
A10 Acc	essible Roof surface (m ²)	0	0	1	3810	1	0		0	1		
A11 Inat	ccessible Roof surface (m ²)	23070	10850	1	7845	,	14200		275	,		,
A12 Gre	en Roof surface (m²)	6500	3400	-	4350		4260	-	200	-	-	,
A13 Balı	conies / Open Covered Areas (m ²)	NA	AN		1200	Hotel: max 40% of GFA	1460		0	I	1	•
B. Progran	nme Area											
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B3 Hot	tel (m²)	-	ı	-	7450	7.250	1	,	,		-	1
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B5 Cor	nmercial Complex / Offices (m ²)	-	1	-	6395	7.000	1		,		1	1
B6 Mu	lti-purpose Hall (m ²)	-	ı	-	3630	3.500	1	1	,	ı	-	
B7 Cor	nference Center Area (m ²)	-	I		I	-	9160	10.500	'	-	I	1
B8 Lux	ury Exhibition Hall Area (m ²)	-	1		1	-	6480	6.000	,		1	1
B9 Caf	eteria (m²)	-	1	1	1	ı	I			250	-	
B10 Uni	derground Parking Area (m ²)	11990	0	12.500		25.000	14900	15.000	,		1	
B11 Uni	derground Storage Area (m ²)	9720	2835	12.000		3.500	1950	2.000	,		ı	
C. Open A	reas											
C1 Pro	vide Area of Roadways (m ²)	-	1	-	1		1	-	16080		1	1
C2 Pro	wide Area of Pedestrian Pathways (m^2)	-	I		I	ı	1		7510	-	I	1
C3 Pro	wide Area of other Hardscape (m^2)	ı	I	I	I	ı	ı	ı	5000	ı	ı	ı
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C6 Pro	wide Area of other Landscape (m^2)	-	1	1	ı	1	1		NA	1	I	1
C7 Pro	wide Area of Water Features (m^2)	1	ı		ı	1	ı		200	-	I	1
C8 Pro	wide Area of other structures (m²)	-	'	ı	1	1	,	-	800	1		

6.0 Space Program Tables

Areas Comparison

Note on Areas: Area Calculations are a high-level estimate based on this initial Concept Design. The Grid System concept proposed for organising the site has been developed to easily adapt to final area requirements, as the project develops.

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Metamorphic Grid An organising masterplan

Our proposal provides you with a flexible and adaptable masterplan that enables you as a client to make changes inside - interchanging buildings and public spaces as the project develops and the design evolves.





A grid provides order but should also allow city life to thrive and develop. We have described this as a 'living grid'.

Visitors can occupy, personalise and enjoy a mosaic of different spaces. The Confex park becomes not just an Exhibition area but a public hub for the city.



Woven into its Context:

We have achieved this with an organising grid structure that links into the major axial routes of the city as well as aligning itself with two sub grids that sensitively respond to the geometry of the site and its existing buildings.



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Activated, naturally shaded streets A variety of human-scaled spaces to enjoy

Height and Enclosure - Event Areas

Intimate, Sheltered Spaces





Roof Plan (1:500)



A shimmering roof plane

Dappled natural light animated the interior spaces

Canopy Section Concept

Infill Modules - Roof Activation





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Thessaloniki ConfEx Park Competition

A3 Report







Integrating Logistic Access to create highly serviceable spaces



A dramatic series of floating roof planes characterises the exhibition halls

Basement Level Park and Storage Spaces.



Congress Basement Level Park and Storage

Spaces.









The VIP Plaza





The Arrival Axis



Congress Looking Over The Event Plaza

















A vibrant, active district and threshold between Heli-Expo and the city



Activated Roofscape

Business Centre Courtyard

Deep Shading Facade



The Business Centre... upper level Plan





Modular Design, Efficient Layout...



Offices With Activated Rooftop Terraces

Tree Lined Street

Hotel