CULTURE: PEOPLE: PLACE: PATTERN LANGUAGE

SITE: AND CONTEXT:

Marindvor District occupies a strategic position between the old city and the new districts of Sarajevo. It is located at the most narrow strip between the north and south hills. All three major traffic connectors, river, freeway and railroad, define the edges of the district. Former “Sniper Alley” runs through the center of the district and touches the proposed site on the North side.

This area includes the barracks of the former “Marshall Tito”, which stand as major obstacles to the urban continuity of the city. The district houses the old museum, the university’s philosophy and natural science building, the parliament and UNIS towers. Recently, the area has undergone a major redevelopment. However, the proposed site remains untouched, holding a large parking lot and a series of dilapidated shacks. Due to this strategic position, it would be the ideal location for a catalyst project that would incorporate light industries, urban agriculture and bring a new market into the city center.

SARAJEVO : REGENERATED

ARCH 540: FALL 2011: MAJA CUNNINGHAM

During the civil war in former Yugoslavia that lasted from 1992 to 1995, Sarajevo became a city of hostages, almost entirely cut off from the world, cut off from water, food, electricity and gas supply. The hills surrounding it were raining death every day and the main thoroughfare within the city became known as Sniper Alley. The aggressors targeted major cultural buildings and completely destroyed more than half of the city’s buildings and left none untouched.

During the Siege, Sarajevo lacked major necessities to sustain life. Having been completely blocked off from the villages that typically supplied them with fresh produce and meat, Sarajevans relied on aid packages that were extremely scarce. Sarajevo lost many parks during the war. Some have become cemeteries, others have lost their trees to fire. A green oasis in the center of the city would bring some of that natural charm back. A urban agricultural center with food service market component as well as space for light industries would have somewhat alleviated that problem.

My proposal for this project would include fields for growing vegetables and grains, greenhouses, small workshops and rooftop gardens with the ultimate goal of self-sufficiency. It would almost function as a living organism using and producing in perfect check and balances. People of Sarajevo have learned to survive together during those difficult years, this project would emphasize that spirit and energy to preserve life.