# Conceptual Solution for the Revitalisation of Public Spaces in Slovak Towns (Case Study Námestovo)

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*Abstract*

*The case study Public Space Námestovo provides an expert view on the issue of public spaces in and its hierarchical understanding in relation to further development. Based on extensive analyses, it defines the important location of the main square in central zone, the proposal for its restoration and the optimal connection with the proposed restored structure of its contact public spaces. The concept is supplemented and presents the approach to the design of a selected secondary public space, which draws attention to the need to comprehensively complete the entire analysis of public space in the city and determine the vision of the development of public space in the city as a whole. It is a challenging task, requiring a thorough and creative examination of several intentions in the form of architectural and urban competitions, which will confirm the potential of these areas. An important task in the further development of the city seems to be to deal with a partially free, sparsely built-up area in contact with the embankment of the Orava Reservoir, where an architectural competition has already taken place. The main goal is its continuous connection with the existing, historically established structure of public spaces. We present the difficulty of entering the central zone on examples. They complete the overall picture and open a discussion about the change in the understanding of the transport infrastructure in the city, while presenting the dominance of pedestrian traffic. The task of creating a quality urban space, building its vision and systematically fulfilling it, is professionally demanding and time-consuming, requiring enthusiasm and focused interest of residents and especially the city management.*

**Keywords:** revitalization; public space; town planning; conceptual solution, walking, culture

## 1. Introduction and History

The topic of public urban space renewal is an integral part of sustainable urban development and directly affects the quality of the socio-cultural life of inhabitants. At the same time, it contributes to building a positive image of the city in the eyes of visitors. A key aspect of public space development is the reinforcement of genius loci-the spirit of the place-which shapes the identity of a locality. [1, 5]

Like most Slovak towns and municipalities, the town of Námestovo faces multiple challenges related to the quality and functionality of its public spaces. The current condition can be described as inadequate, with complex underlying causes. Major contributing factors include the transformation of property ownership after 1989, shifts in the political and economic structures, and the absence of high-quality, up-to-date spatial planning documentation that would address the needs of public spaces, their hierarchy, and strategic development. Unlike in Western European countries, Slovak legislation in the area of spatial planning still fails to sufficiently define conditions for a systematic and conceptual intervention by architects in the urban environment. [8]

The analytical part of the public space concept in Námestovo represents the initial step toward creating a sustainable and functional urban structure. Within this analysis, a hierarchical arrangement of public spaces was developed, identifying key nodes, functional and undervalued streets, as well as missing focal points. This systematic organization not only improves spatial orientation but also creates prerequisites for high-quality urban spaces suitable for movement, cultural and social activities, and relaxation. The hierarchical network of public spaces was supplemented by a scheme of street and transport infrastructure. This analytical layer forms the basis for future decision-making in urban planning and development.

The solution also includes selected case studies presenting alternative designs and visualizations of the future appearance of public spaces in the city. These studies offer diverse approaches based on respect for the local structure and history, while also applying contemporary urban and architectural trends. Their aim is to seek the distinctiveness and attractiveness of the place-ensuring continuity with the past, yet openness to the new. Special attention is given to the waterfront of the Orava Reservoir, which has the potential to become an iconic public space and to strengthen the city's position within the region.

The effort to improve the quality of public spaces in Námestovo is an effort to create a city for people-a city that is not only a functional unit but also a living place that breathes history and aspires to be attractive to both residents and visitors. Through analytical work, design studies, and conceptual thinking, it is possible to create public spaces that are not only representative but above all lively, inclusive, and sustainable. [2]

## 2. Research Objectives and Methodology

The research on the revitalization of public spaces in the town of Námestovo was based on a combination of analytical, participatory, and design approaches, which allowed for a comprehensive understanding of both the existing problems and the potential of the area. The chosen methodology respects the multidisciplinary nature of the topic, linking urban, architectural, social, and historical aspects of public space.

The historical analysis focused on the development of the town's urban structure throughout the 20th century, particularly during the key period of the construction of the Orava Reservoir. This transformation significantly impacted the town's identity, including the relocation of its historical center. The analysis was based on archival maps, photographs, spatial planning documents, and scholarly texts. The results provided valuable context for interpreting the current condition and helped to identify valuable historical layers that can be restored.

The urban analysis included an assessment of spatial organization, functional use, transportation connections, and the identification of public spaces. A crucial task was to categorize individual public spaces within a system of supra-regional, regional, and local levels. The analysis then focused on the central urban zone and its adjacent areas, where the main and secondary public spaces were defined, along with their actual state: existing, undervalued, or missing. This phase also included an analysis of accessibility, barriers, and connectivity, which significantly influence the usability of the space. The outcome was a hierarchical network of public spaces, serving as a foundation for the design part of the study. [4]

Fieldwork was carried out through systematic visits to the area. These included direct observation, photographic documentation, and measurements of pedestrian and vehicular movement intensity. The field research confirmed several hypotheses from the analytical phase—such as the spatial dominance of car traffic, the untapped recreational potential of several zones, the absence of quality urban furniture and greenery, as well as the presence of visual pollution caused by chaotic and inappropriate facade modifications.

Community mapping represented a participatory tool aimed at involving residents in evaluating and co-creating public spaces. Through interviews and interactive mapping, data were collected on how residents perceive the quality of specific locations, where they feel safe, which places they consider attractive, and where they identify problems. This method enabled the inclusion of users' subjective experiences and everyday reality, which is essential for the long-term sustainability of public spaces.

In-depth interviews were conducted with selected key stakeholders, including municipal representatives, professionals in spatial planning, architects, representatives of cultural institutions, and active citizens. These semi-structured interviews focused on evaluating the current condition of public spaces, identifying major obstacles to revitalization, and exploring visions for the city's future development. The benefit of this phase was the validation of research findings directly with actors who influence decision-making and the implementation of development projects.

The overall research framework thus integrated theoretical knowledge, analytical tools, and empirical data into a comprehensive view of the public space issue. The resulting concept is grounded in field evidence, respects historical development, and is based on the participatory principle, which is now essential for the successful renewal of urban public environments.

## 3. Results: Key Findings and Territorial Analyses

The construction of the Orava Reservoir caused a dramatic disruption in the historical continuity of the urban structure of the town of Námestovo. The building of the waterworks required the flooding of a large portion of the built-up area, including almost the entire historical core of the town. Only a fragment of the original urban structure was preserved, which includes the Church of Saints Simon and Jude. This segment, located above the water level, today represents only a remnant of the original layout, bearing traces of its historical layer. A significant issue for territorial development is the pronounced physical separation of this preserved area from the Orava Reservoir's waterfront. This separation was caused by the construction of a heavily trafficked service road, which severed the potential for a direct functional and visual connection between the town and the water surface, as well as between the various components of the town center's civic amenities and the area designated for sports and recreation—demonstrated in the accompanying diagram of functional areas and their connections. From an urban planning perspective, the dominant problem in the area is the overwhelming presence of vehicular traffic. The territory is dominated by automobile transportation with no segregation of pedestrian movement. Walking is restricted, often uncomfortable and unsafe. There are no safe pedestrian crossings, accessible boarding zones, or clear connections between civic amenity zones and public spaces. Static traffic (parking) is not addressed conceptually, which results in its unwanted spread into pedestrian zones and the overloading of public spaces with parked vehicles. [7]

Fig. 1. Functional areas and their connections [6]

The traffic road running along the waterfront of the Orava Reservoir represents a significant urban barrier that fundamentally disrupts the natural connection between the town center and the waterfront.

This heavily trafficked artery separates the built-up area from one of the most valuable zones in terms of public space potential, recreation, and environmental quality. As a result, the town remains physically and functionally cut off from a space that, under ideal conditions, would form a natural extension of the central urban zone for sports and recreational activities.

This issue is particularly critical in the context of public space design, where pedestrian mobility is expected to be the dominant mode of movement. However, the current situation does not allow for a smooth, safe, or logical transition for pedestrians between the town and the waterfront. Both visual and functional connections are missing, which results in the fragmentation of the urban environment and a loss of connection with a unique landscape feature—the water surface of the reservoir.

Despite these transformative changes, the preserved fragment of the original town center has remained intact and today serves as the core of the central urban zone. Over the subsequent decades, new civic amenities have gradually developed around it. These were analyzed through the hierarchy of individual public spaces and their importance concerning regional and local impact. This development confirms the vitality of the area despite altered natural and urban conditions and creates a basis for its further integration into the concept of a modern and culturally grounded public urban structure.

This was documented by assessing the quality of individual public spaces, defining functioning areas, undervalued ones, and identifying potentially missing yet underused spaces with high potential. The Orava Reservoir waterfront is a typical example—despite its strategic location and unique landscape context, it remains undeveloped and neglected. Its functional integration into the town's life is absent, although this area could serve significant recreational, cultural, and community purposes. The potential of a "waterfront town" remains untapped—lacking architectural vision, connectivity, and an active function.

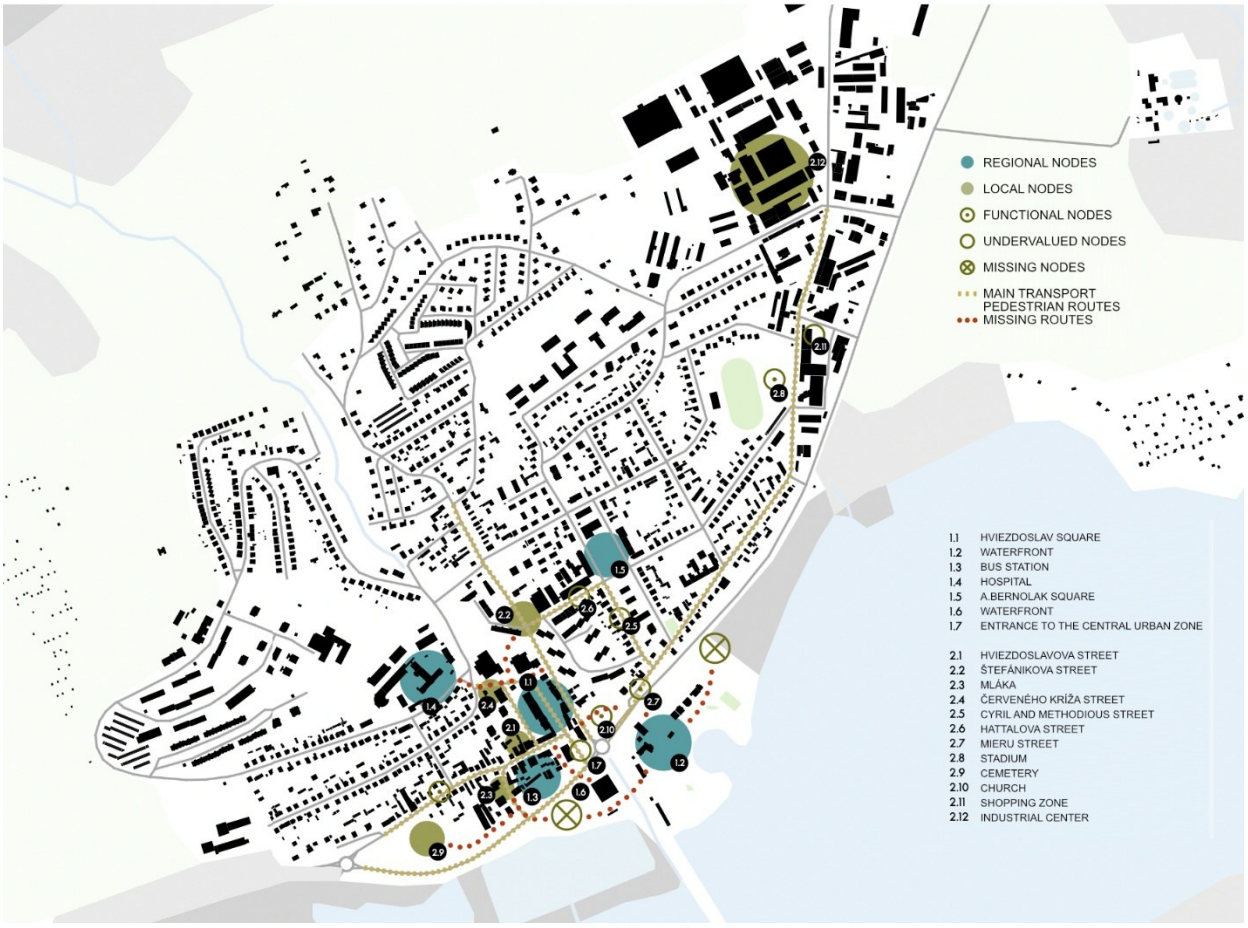


Fig. 2. Spatial hierarchization [6]

Attention has been devoted to the issue of urban development in this part of the town through several architectural competitions, which focused on design proposals for the use, activation, and spatial transformation of the waterfront. These competitions presented diverse approaches to transforming the waterfront into a city-forming space. However, the key challenge—the systematic connection between the waterfront and the preserved historical part of the town center—remains unresolved to this day.

This is a strategic urban problem that requires not only traffic-related measures (e.g., speed reduction, grade-separated solutions, or roadway depression), but also architectural and landscape interventions capable of creating a seamless and attractive transition between the town and the waterfront with its valuable water feature. Without such a connection, it is not possible to fully realize the vision of a connected network of public spaces throughout the town.

Realizing this vision was therefore preceded by a clearly defined hierarchy of public spaces. What was missing—and is now being supplemented—is a comprehensive vision that systematically defines the importance of various zones: from the main square, through central urban spaces, to secondary plazas, spaces in front of public amenities, pedestrian corridors, and parks. Without such hierarchy, it is impossible to carry out cohesive interventions in specific fragments of the town, which would otherwise lead to uneven investment focus, lack of clarity, and the absence of logical connections between individual locations.

Another major issue in the public spaces of central Námestovo is the non-conceptual use of materials, which does not reflect the character of the locality. The area suffers from material and visual chaos, caused by the unsystematic application of paving surfaces, street furniture, and building colors. There is a lack of a unified aesthetic approach that would respect the regional identity of the picturesque Upper Orava mountain environment. Traditional natural materials—such as wood, stone, or earthy tones—are often replaced with technical, insensitive solutions. The result is visual pollution and a loss of the town's culturally legible image. [5]

## 4. Case studies – approach to area revitalization, recommendations and vision for the development of the central urban zone (cuz)

### *4.1 Case Study – Entry Space to the Cuz: Area Between Štefánikova and Vojtaššákova Streets*

To objectively evaluate the potential and limitations of the space within the Central Urban Zone (CUZ) of the town of Námestovo, a SWOT analysis was conducted. It identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the area, as well as its development opportunities and potential threats. This analytical tool helps formulate realistic proposals for public space revitalization and serves as a basis for strategic decisions regarding the area's future direction.

The strengths of the studied area lie primarily in its legible urban structure and favorable location. A major advantage is the town's compactness, which ensures that all essential functions are within walking distance. The site is situated between two important nodes—the central urban zone and the Orava Reservoir waterfront—giving it a strategic position along a potential development axis. Another positive factor is the presence of active pedestrian movement, which forms a solid foundation for creating a lively and attractive public space.

However, the weaknesses point to several functional and aesthetic deficiencies. The dominant use of open spaces as parking lots limits the area's potential for leisure and community interaction, suppressing its recreational and social value. Poor connections to surrounding areas and difficult crossings over traffic corridors hinder pedestrian flow. A significant problem is also the incoherent design of green areas, which do not meet contemporary standards of ecological quality and user comfort. Conflicts between pedestrians and car traffic, along with high noise levels, further undermine the perception of the public space as safe and pleasant.

The opportunities for revitalization include, above all, the renewal of existing buildings and ground-level zones (parterres) and their new functional use. Reducing the extent of static traffic (parking) in favor of pedestrian and cycling mobility opens up possibilities for creating higher-quality public spaces. The proposal for a main information point between the CUZ and the waterfront could significantly enhance orientation and strengthen the identity of the area. An additional driver of change is the potential inclusion of architecturally significant buildings—such as the Hotel Magura—in the list of cultural monuments, which would help increase their protection and visibility.

The threats that may hinder revitalization efforts are mainly related to systemic and legal constraints. The ongoing need to secure sufficient parking capacity remains a major issue, often conflicting with the goal of humanizing the public realm. Complex property-legal relations may significantly delay or even prevent the implementation of planned interventions. Another challenge is posed by the existing technical infrastructure, which may limit the ability to modify the space and increase the cost of adjustments.

The analysis shows that the area has strong potential for high-quality transformation, provided that weaknesses and threats are addressed through thoughtful and participatory solutions.

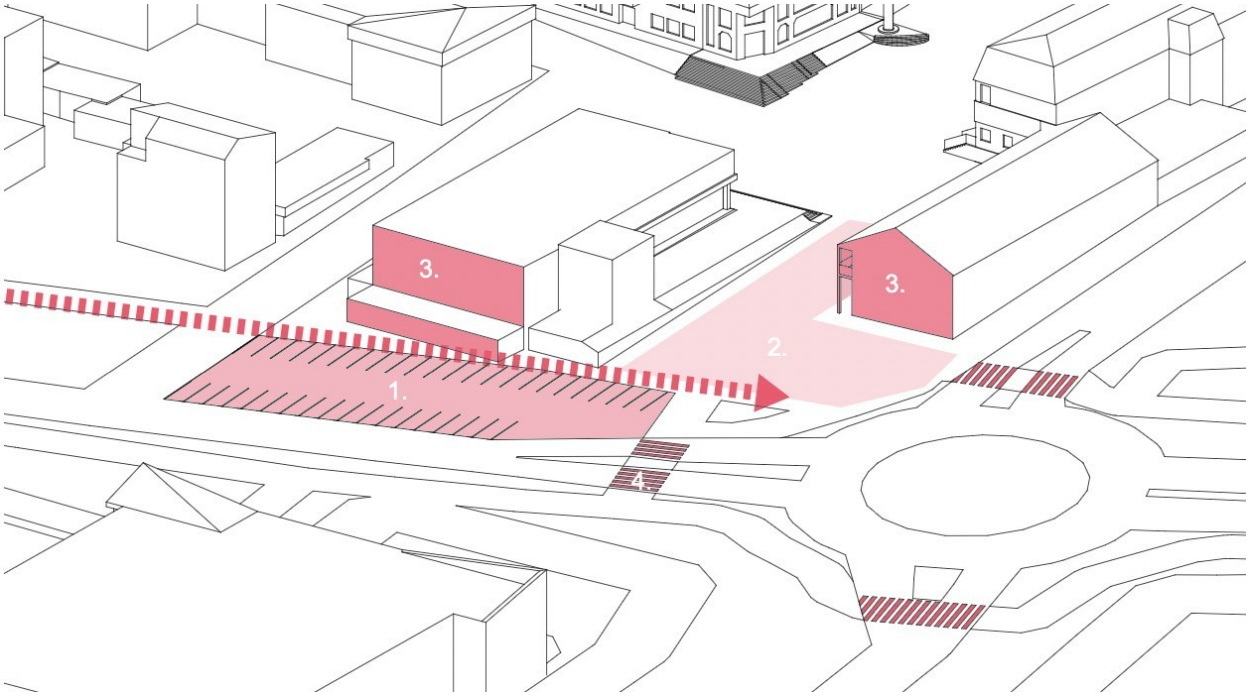


Fig. 3. Problem analysis of entry space to the CUZ. 01 Access to the pedestrian zone without a sidewalk (across the road). 02 Area without functional use. 03 Visual pollution and missing lighting. 04 Poorly designed crossing within service traffic [6]

***Recommendations and Vision***

The entrance area of the Central Urban Zone in front of the Hotel Magura, which connects directly to the bus station, represents a significant pedestrian corridor with a high intensity of foot traffic—extending toward both the church and the waterfront. Given the increased concentration of pedestrians, crosswalks were strategically repositioned to ensure the smooth operation of the transport system. The removal of parking spaces in front of the central square's main building allows for the expansion of public space, thereby

improving spatial orientation for both residents and visitors.

As this entrance area serves as the first point of contact with the town, it is proposed to install an information system as part of its functional equipment. Moving toward the core of the central zone, the space opens up visually and adopts a more airy and inviting character. This social space, designed as a small square, is emphasized by the placement of a statue of P. O. Hviezdoslav—a prominent cultural figure of the region.

A representative forecourt is formed at the threshold of the zone, defined by flower beds and taller vegetation, which also functions as a natural barrier against the noise and dust from the adjacent intersection. The space is complemented by seating areas, transforming the zone into a place for social interaction and an important meeting point for tourists, bus travelers, and church visitors alike.

Through the integration of greenery, urban furniture, and an information system, the square gains a cohesive and functionally balanced character. It becomes a welcoming gateway to the central urban zone and a vibrant public space that reflects both the identity and aspirations of the town.

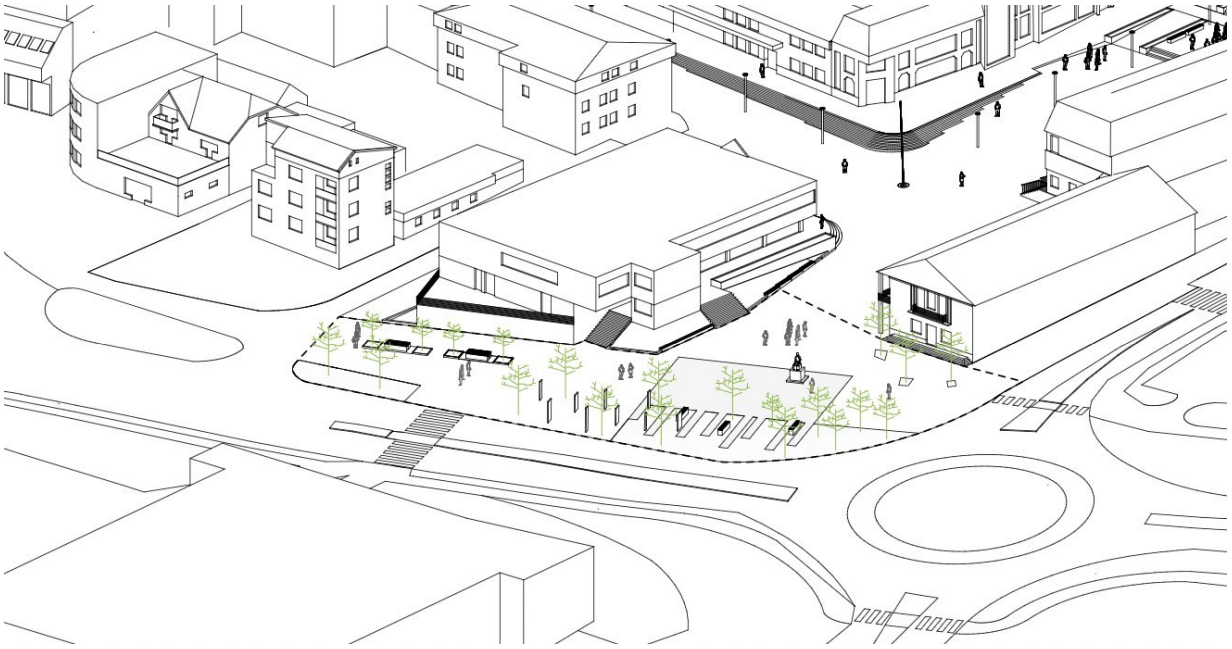

Fig. 4. Proposed design solution of entry space to the CUZ [6]

### *4.2 Case Study – Secondary Space of the CUZ: Hviezdoslavova Street*

Hviezdoslavova Street, as an important urban space within the Central Urban Zone (CUZ) of Námestovo, is currently subject to intensive functional and traffic-related pressures. A SWOT analysis was conducted to assess its revitalization potential, identifying existing qualities, weaknesses, development opportunities, and potential risks.

The strengths of this street lie mainly in its functional amenities and spatial arrangement. The presence of services, shops, and active ground-floor uses increases its attractiveness as a center of daily urban life. An additional advantage is its clear linear structure, which supports intuitive orientation and provides good conditions for designing pedestrian routes. Commercial passageways also add value, offering potential for the expansion of retail spaces and enhancing the street's liveliness.

The weaknesses, however, reveal several factors that reduce the quality of user experience. The most significant issue is the absence of rest zones, which would otherwise support relaxation and social interaction. Heavy automobile traffic, particularly in the western part of the street, negatively affects both the sense of safety and the quality of the urban environment. Another key problem is the lack of barrier-free access to businesses, which limits service accessibility for a wide range of users. The street also suffers from an incoherent urban structure and the presence of visual pollution on building façades, diminishing its aesthetic value.

The opportunities point toward the revitalization of inner blocks and the renewed use of existing buildings. There is a growing interest in living in the town center, suggesting strong potential to improve quality of life and establish a multifunctional urban environment. Reprofiling the street with a focus on pedestrian mobility and increasing greenery could significantly contribute to a more pleasant and ecologically sound microclimate, thereby enhancing both its social and recreational functions.

The threats to sustainable development of this street relate to the ongoing relocation of services and retail to the town's outskirts, which could further weaken its economic and social vitality. The parking issue remains a persistent challenge—pressures to maintain or increase static traffic capacity often suppress the potential for creating public spaces for people.

The results of the SWOT analysis confirm that Hviezdoslavova Street has the potential to be transformed into an attractive urban boulevard, focused on pedestrian movement, urban living, and cultural-social life. However, it is essential to address the identified weaknesses through integrated and participatory planning approaches.

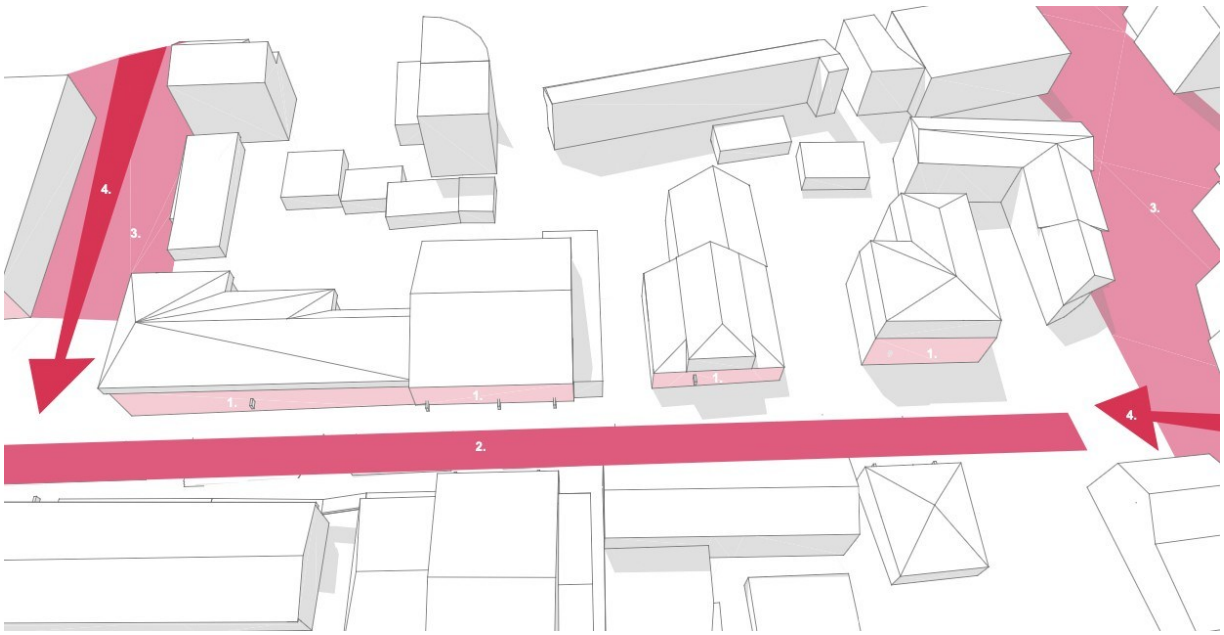

Fig. 5. Problem analysis of secondary space of the CUZ. 01 Visual pollution – lack of regulation. 02 Inadequate street furniture and lack of greenery. 03 Pedestrian zone interrupted by a road. 04 Vehicle entry [6]

***Recommendations and Vision***

The next stage of revitalization and modernization of the Central Urban Zone (CUZ) focuses on Hviezdoslavova Street and the central part of the area under study. Within the pedestrian zone, it is proposed to implement a complete ban on parking, with the exception of delivery services, which would be regulated through time-based access restrictions. For this reason, the peripheral corridors along buildings will remain widened and passable, creating space for the placement of outdoor furniture, especially for cafés and fast-food establishments.

The central axis of the space is defined by a rhythmic arrangement of benches, a tree-lined avenue, and public lighting. Toward the core of the zone, the terrain gradually slopes downward, and the visual rhythm of benches and greenery fades—only the lighting remains, reinforcing a sense of openness and spatial flexibility. This section functions as a connecting element within the entire urban zone and serves as a spatially significant location suitable for social and cultural events.

Seasonal use of the space is anticipated, including the placement of a maypole, Christmas tree, or nativity decorations. By adjusting the stairways, the main pedestrian movement axes are clearly defined, reinforcing their community-oriented character. The overall appearance of the space is shaped by a minimalist design, which provides a clean and coherent visual impression while offering a contrasting backdrop to the architectural diversity of the surrounding façades.

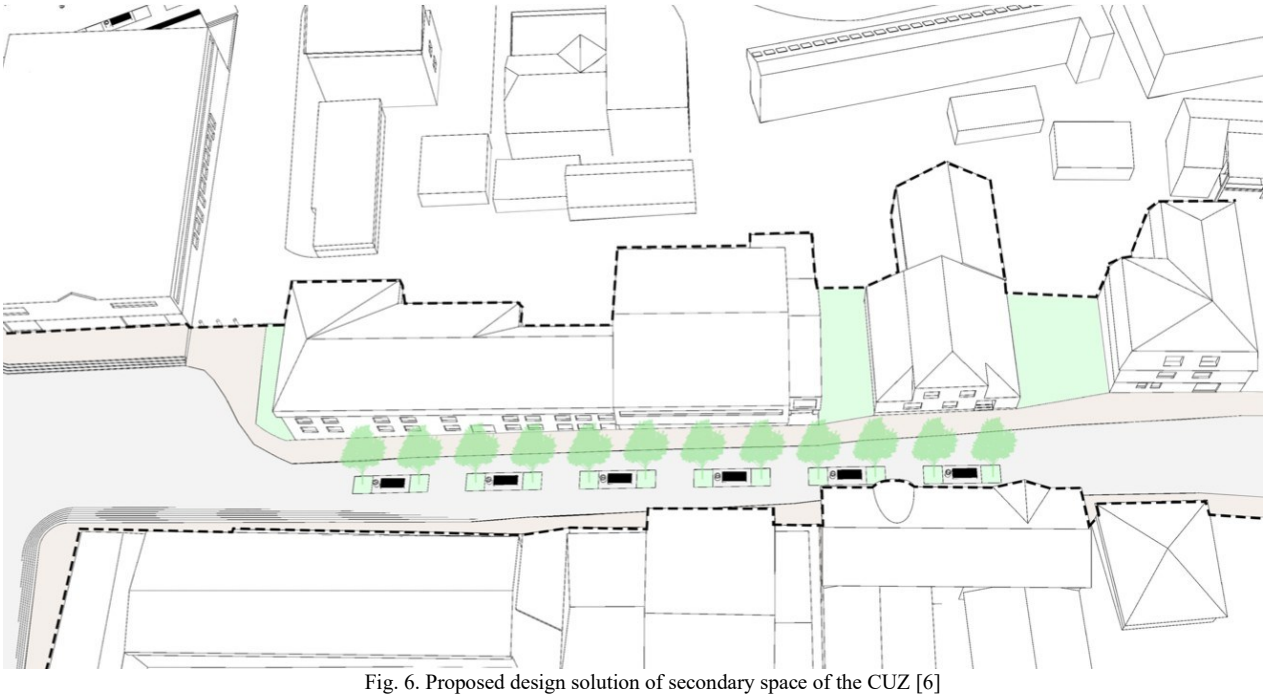
Fig. 6. Proposed design solution of secondary space of the CUZ [6]

### *4.3* Case Study – Primary Space of the CUZ: Hviezdoslav Square

The analysis of the public space in the central part of Námestovo—Hviezdoslav Square—reveals a strong potential for transforming this zone into the town's active cultural and social core. This potential was evaluated through a SWOT analysis, which

identified numerous strengths, while also pointing out key limitations and risks that must be systematically addressed in future phases of urban planning.

The strengths of the area are primarily rooted in its historical significance and the characteristic surrounding architecture, which together shape the distinct identity of this urban space. The topography of the terrain creates a naturally enclosed and well-defined area, making it well-suited for the formation of an intimate and cohesive public environment. From an urban planning perspective, it provides an ideal platform for the development of a multifunctional city space with diverse uses. There is a clear orientation toward cultural functions, as the square is directly connected to the House of Culture. Also worth highlighting are the high levels of traffic safety and the natural integration of the square into the central structure of the town.

However, the weaknesses point to several systemic shortcomings. The space is significantly sloped, descending toward the reservoir, and inadequate barrier-free access complicates its accessibility and inclusiveness for all groups of users. A major issue is the visual smog on building façades, which undermines the aesthetic quality of the environment and overshadows the architectural value of surrounding buildings. Inefficient use of public space results in a lower quality of stay. Despite its potential, the House of Culture is not visually or spatially emphasized as the square's main feature. The square lacks sufficient facilities for cultural activities and support for public life, and the presence of neglected greenery further reduces the area's appeal.

Opportunities for improvement lie especially in better connecting the square with the Orava Reservoir waterfront, potentially creating a strong recreational and cultural axis. The location offers room for further development, including street re-profiling, the addition of greenery and street furniture, and the creation of new zones for public use. These interventions could significantly enhance both the aesthetic and functional quality of the area.

Threats to the revitalization process primarily involve the decentralization of civic amenities toward the outskirts of the town, which weakens the social relevance and status of the evaluated zone. The lack of activities in the space contributes to its gradual emptiness and the loss of its social function. Another risk is the decline of commercial services, which could further reduce the economic vitality and overall dynamism of the square.

Based on these findings, it is clear that revitalizing this space will require not only physical redesign but also support for cultural, community, and economic activities, which can restore its urban role and make it accessible and meaningful for all residents.

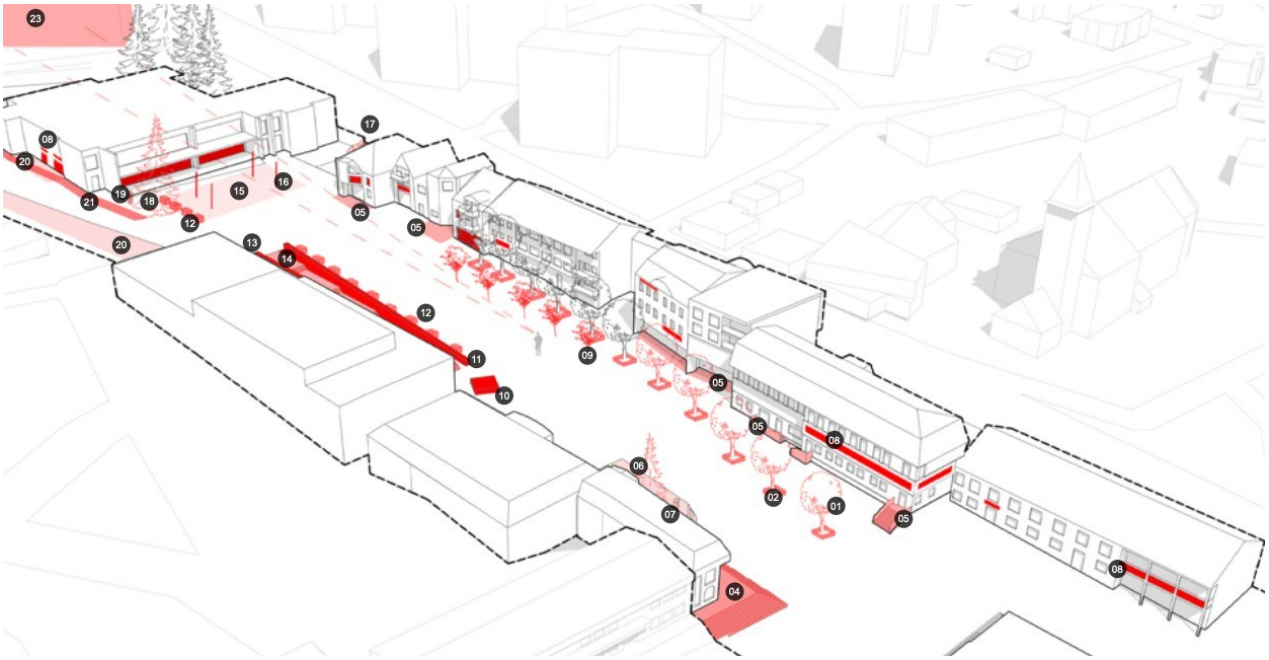

Fig. 7. Problem analysis of primary space of the CUZ. 01 Vegetation encroaching into the square area. 02 Inappropriate type of furniture combined with flowerpots. 03 Inappropriate placement of flowerpots. 04 Staircase creating a large elevation difference. 05 Terraces, stairs, and gardens extending into the square area = lack of unity. 06 Vegetation reducing the access area to the square. 07 Sculpture obscured by vegetation. 08 Visual pollution. 09 Morally and functionally outdated flowerpots. 09 Decentrally placed deteriorating fountain. 10 Wall obstructing the view and access to the wall of notable personalities of Upper Orava. 11 Inappropriately placed seating furniture. 12 Deteriorating wall of notable personalities. 13 Staircase separating the wall of personalities from the square area. 14 Insufficiently designed gathering space in front of the cultural center. 15 Inappropriately chosen type of lighting and its placement. 16 Steep staircase, missing ramp for the disabled. 17 Tree obstructing the view of the cultural center. 18 Inappropriate location of the parking meter. 19 Undesirable placement of parking spaces at the beginning of the square. 20 Missing pedestrian connection. 21 Missing pedestrian crossing. 22 Need to block the view toward the apartment building and plant trees behind the cultural center [6]

***Recommendations and Vision***

The main stage of revitalization and modernization of the Central Urban Zone focuses on the northern part of the study area. By designing five horizontally leveled platforms (platos) on Hviezdoslav Square, existing elevation differences are eliminated, creating a high-quality public space with strong cultural and social potential. Each of the proposed platforms is equipped with permanently installed urban furniture, while the central area of each platform remains flexible—intended to host various types of events depending on their nature and scale.

Access to these platforms is designed on two levels—from the lower part via staircases and from the upper part through barrier-free connections, ensuring full accessibility. The overall spatial composition also enables active use during evening hours; lighting serves not only a safety function but also contributes to creating a pleasant and inviting atmosphere.

On the right side of the square, a tree-lined avenue is proposed, referencing the original—now lost—historic planting. This green

element provides natural shade, improves microclimatic comfort during the summer months, and visually and functionally softens the public space within the context of a busy urban environment. This side of the square shows the highest potential for utilizing adjacent terraces and outdoor seating areas.

The opposite side of the square is conceived as a more dynamic, transit-oriented zone, with two parallel pedestrian corridors, one of which is fully barrier-free. At the terminal point of this composition lies the House of Culture, complemented by a water feature and an art installation, which together form an attractive conclusion to the main square axis and contribute to its visual identity.

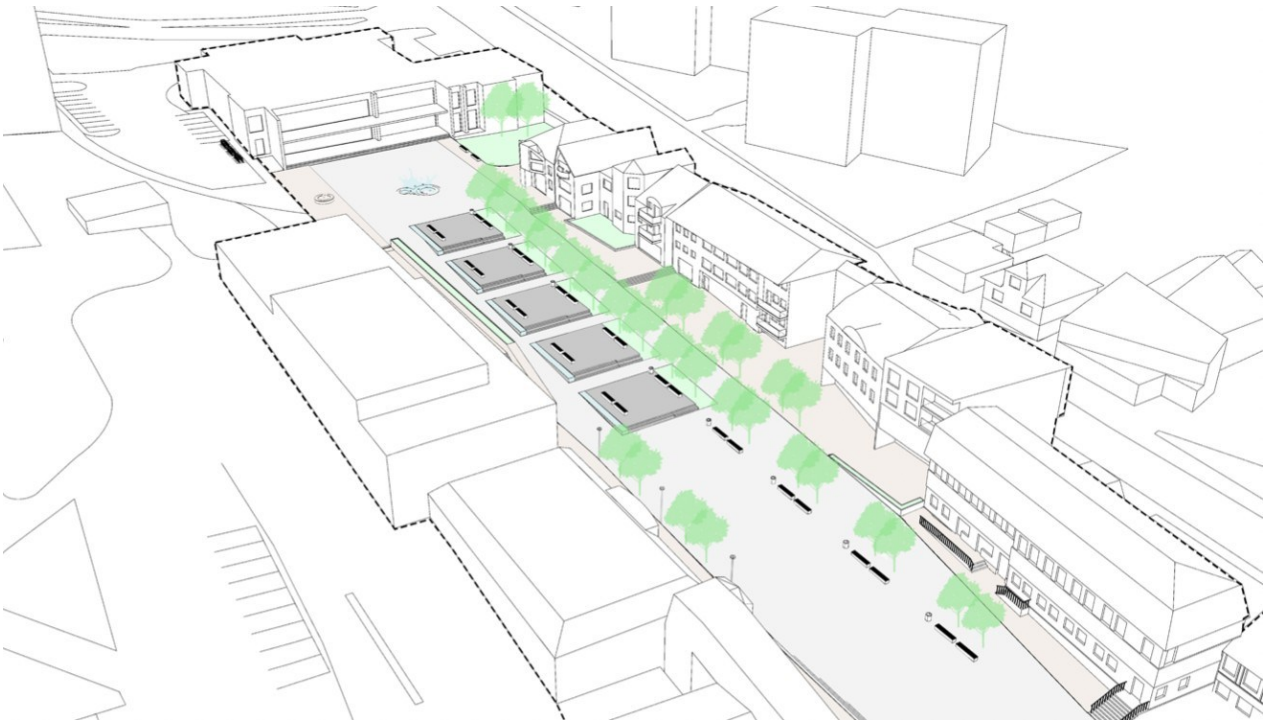

Fig. 8. Proposed design Solution of primary space of the CUZ [6]

## 5. Discussions

The proposed interventions in the Central Urban Zone reflect current trends in urban planning, which emphasize inclusiveness, barrier-free access, climate resilience, and the multifunctionality of public spaces. The transformation of Hviezdoslav Square and its surroundings is aimed at improving the quality of urban life by activating previously unused or inefficiently used areas. The introduction of a hierarchically organized network of pedestrian routes, the elimination of excessive parking, and the restoration of vegetation and street furniture are key steps toward enhancing both the attractiveness and user comfort of public space.

An important aspect of the design is the ability of public space to adapt to various temporal and social contexts—during the day and at night, for regular daily use as well as for seasonal or cultural events. However, one of the key questions remains the sustainability of the proposed elements, their long-term maintenance, and the need for participatory involvement from the local community. The resulting quality of space ultimately depends not only on physical redevelopment, but also on its active use and social acceptance. [3]

## 6. Conclusions

The research on public spaces in the central part of the town of Námestovo has revealed several key findings that affect both the quality of urban life and the potential for further development. The historical analysis confirmed the disruption of urban continuity caused by the construction of the Orava Reservoir, which led to the physical and functional separation of the town from its natural core and landscape setting. The urban analysis identified the dominance of vehicular traffic, the absence of pedestrian connections, and undervalued or unused public spaces. Participatory methods also highlighted how residents and key stakeholders perceive the quality of public spaces from a subjective perspective.

The main contribution of this study to urban planning practice is the creation of a hierarchical network of public spaces as a tool for systematic planning and targeted interventions. The mapping of key central urban spaces, their connections, functional use, and aesthetic quality provides a valuable framework for forming a comprehensive public space renewal strategy. The design phase builds directly upon the analytical findings and offers concrete recommendations focused on revitalizing critical locations, improving accessibility, activating the waterfront, and harmonizing the material and visual character of the area.

In the context of today's approach to sustainable urban planning, the study emphasizes the importance of integrating historical, social, and landscape-ecological aspects into the design of public spaces. A key takeaway is the need for a participatory approach, which makes it possible to reflect the needs and values of the local community as legitimate co-creators of public space.

For further research, the following areas are identified as particularly promising:

– In-depth analysis of options for reducing traffic load along the waterfront road and creating comfortable pedestrian links between the waterfront and the central urban zone
– Research on environmentally friendly revitalization solutions (e.g. blue-green infrastructure – using water and greenery as a guiding concept in public space)
– Long-term monitoring of the impact of implemented interventions on the quality of life and user behavior in public space

In conclusion, the proposed concept for public spaces in Námestovo represents not only a response to the current condition, but also a vision for the future—a future in which the town is fully connected with its natural environment, cultural identity, and the evolving needs of its residents.

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