

In our view, the **Light of Tomorrow** in a modern context will have to answer to the contemporary needs for a healthy environment and the human desire to rediscover the forgotten spaces within the city.

Our attention was drawn by a very actual problem in the rehabilitation of urban historical centers, namely the revival of the buried historical vestiges and their inclusion in an "underground tourism" programme.

The concept expresses a proposal for the urban reintegration and development of a vast underground series of galleries that can be found Bucharest, some dating back to the eighteenth century, when they were used as strategic carriage roads concealed beneath the city.

Using a dual system for bringing water and light natural throughout our intervention, we aim to bring life and vibrancy to these long forgotten places.

The project responds to the people's need to know their history and to discover the invisible spaces of the city. We believe that in a modern society based on globalization, we can use light to rediscover the city's identity.

Moreover, by the use of light, we can create a healthier environment for those visiting the city.

The aim is to create an environment free of pollution, where you can find a fresh climate during the summertime and a protected, sheltered, warmer atmosphere during wintertime due to the earth's natural warmth.

Achieving this means bringing light into the underground. As new routes are proposed under the city center, we can consider the historical center's pavement as a horizontal perforated plane that allows light to invade into the underground spaces. This is possible through a conical solar pipeline system arranged in an irregular pattern that brings sunlight directly into these basements.

The idea is to make a connection between city, considered the ground plane, and the underground, by perforating through these two overlapping planes.

This system has its own poetry. By using natural light inside these underground rooms, both directly through the ceiling's perforations and reflected in the thin film of water, the atmosphere is in a permanent state of change. Light is always changing, due to the Sun's movement on the sky or when light is filtered through clouds, reflections and amplification from the water's movement.

For the underground city, these solar "mushrooms" mark a proposed historical trail. They also work as irregularly disposed landmarks throughout the city that guide you on the route to and between points of major interest.

We believe that light is part of a more complex system in ecological architecture. Therefore it's always benefic for light to work together with other natural elements.

Water was chosen as a reflective surface inside the basements as an element that amplifies light, but also makes light dance on these historical elements. Thus we have created a composite lighting system for interior spaces where natural light can work together with water in order to redefine the old walls and ceilings as vibrant light surfaces.

The use of vegetation in the areas of access ramps forms a green filter to freshen the surrounding air. The air, filtered through the vegetation, and the movement of the water flow assures a flux of ventilation inside the tunnel. The used air is finally evacuated through the cones.

We tried to perceive natural light as a living element that animates these forgotten spaces and tried to emphasize the poetic nature of these rooms. They are not museum exhibits, lifeless objects, but some elements that have an interesting story to tell

The project offers an answer to the problem of historical vestiges management, their reintegration into the city's life; giving people a chance to discover a whole new environment, away from crowded modern city, a healthy, vibrant and educational space.

We give an answer to a challenge: *What is the meaning of light in the modern context?* Light is a factor of regeneration and urban revitalization with the ability to invade the city's hidden spaces and to bring them to life.

Our exercise attempted with minimal intervention to highlight the extraordinary contribution that natural light can bring to the illumination of spaces that are generally regarded as closed, dark, cold and dirty.

This "path of light" can generate alternative pedestrian street connections, and in time related functions can develop. We have already met in many basements of historical buildings restaurants, bars and shops, so a linked underground space that can furthermore generate such functions in interest points corelated with above-ground interest areas is viable.

By introducing light into the underground we emphasise the possibility of an alternative urban development strategy, a signal to the fact that minimal interventions may yield great benefits and possibilities.

We strongly believe that a judicious use of natural resources in a responsible urban development plan, can create a healthy environment that future generations can benefit from.