

Early Christian Centre archaeological park

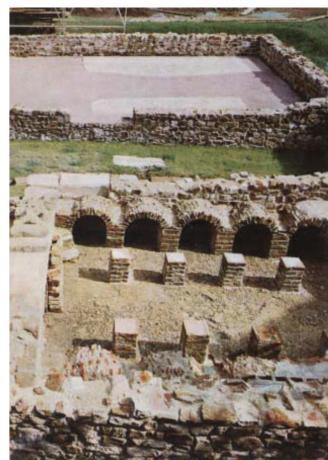
The archaeological excavations conducted here unearthed a Roman residential building. Like with the majority of Emonan houses, it was built at the beginning of the 1st century A.D. During the nearly 500 years of its existence it was rebuilt several times. The first major rebuilding was undertaken in the early 4th century when the floors were renovated, the hypocaust heating was arranged and three small pools were added, suggesting that the building might have been turned into private baths. In the second half of the 4th century, one section of the house was rebuilt as an early Christian chapel. However, a major alteration occurred at the beginning of the 5th century when a rectangular baptistery with a small baptising pool in the centre was built alongside the central courtyard. The baptistery floor is covered in a multi-coloured mosaic with inbuilt inscriptions bearing the names of the Emonans who had donated the funds for its assembly. There was a covered portico featuring a coloured mosaic leading to the baptistery. The mosaic had an inbuilt inscription with the name of the builder, Archdeacon Antioha. This shows there was a strong community of early Christians in Emona at that time. Its existence is also confirmed by written records which refer to Emonan bishops.



1



2



3

1 Archaeological park Early Christian baptistery - cloaca under the former residential house

2 Preserved baptising pool and floor mosaics under the protective canopy which is now being refurbished

3-4 Emonan house remains



4

5 The northern Emona gate - Porta Praetoria Emonae in-situ presentation in the underground complex of Congress Square

6 Restoration works on the Emona embankment wall in 'Mirje' in 2012

7 The Emona embankment wall in 'Mirje' as part of the urban environment

Emonan House archaeological park

In 1966 remains of a Roman building dating from the late 4th and early 5th centuries were discovered in the Jakopič Garden. Judging by the high-quality building finishes and utilities (floors, mosaics, heating), the building was home to a wealthy and respectable Roman family.

The central dwelling place was what is termed a summer room and its floor was made up of a two-coloured geometrical mosaic; only the rich could afford mosaics at that time. On the other side, the winter room is featuring a preserved system of hypocaust heating. In order to provide for thermal conductivity, the walls were built from hollow bricks. The building was also connected to the sewage system - cloaca.

Roman Wall archaeological park

The embankment wall in Mirje presents the largest complex of remains of the Roman Emona. Still part of the modern city is a large portion of the south wall featuring original elements of the south gate towers.

During rapid development of the city after World War II there were strong incentives for the demolition of the walls. With the efforts of the conservator Franc Stele and architect Jože Plečnik, a public initiative prevented the demolition and the walls were restored according to Plečnik's design. Today the walls are again undergoing conservation works within the new Ljubljana archaeological parks management plan and in celebration of the 2000th anniversary of Emona.



5



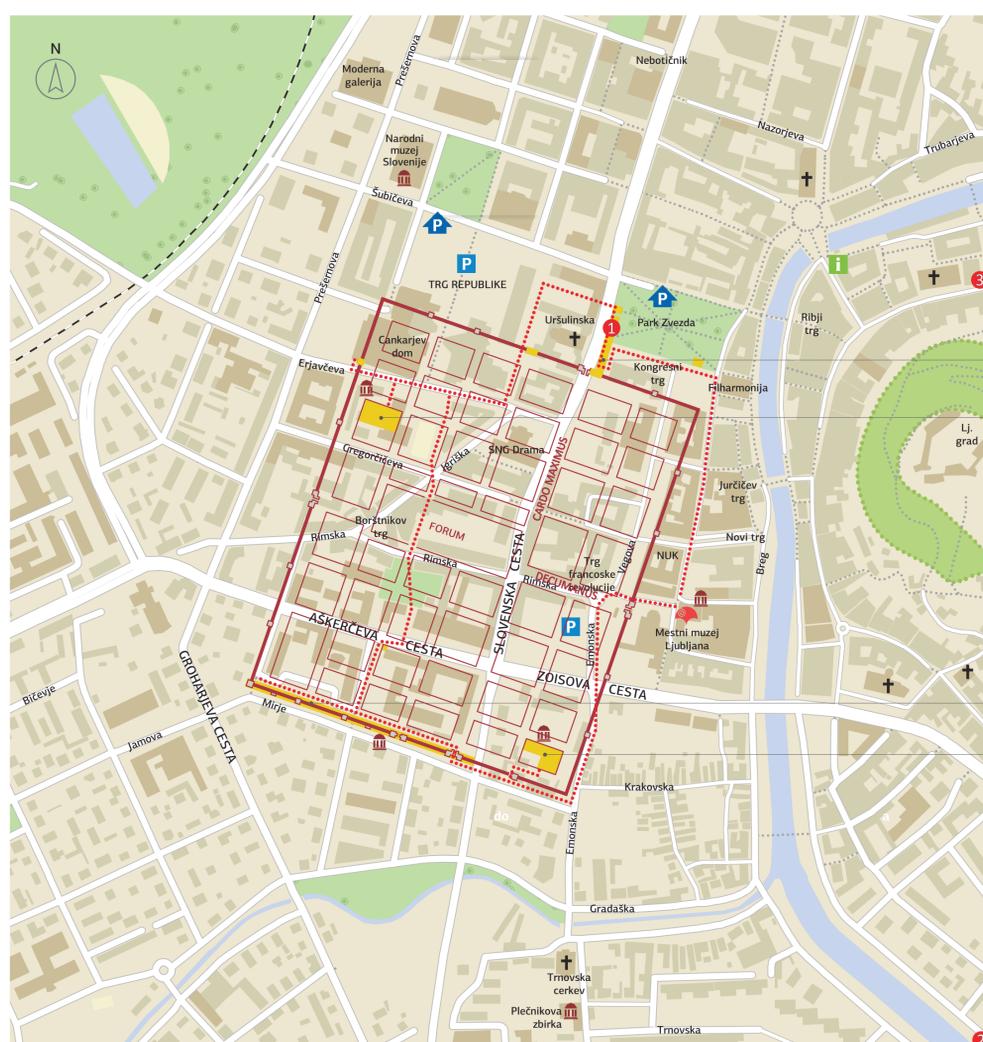
6



7

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARKS IN LJUBLJANA

LJUBLJANA - URBAN HERITAGE CONNECTED



Archaeological parks and *in-situ* presentations in the contexts of the city, Emona overlay and the future information network

Congress Square, Emona promenade, and Northern Emona gate

Early Christian Centre

Roman wall

Emonan house and cloaca

Legend: Information spots

 Museum of Ljubljana

 Interactive information module Emona promenade

 Interactive information module Prehistoric pile village

 Interactive information module Medieval and Early Modern Ljubljana

On the city scale a network of interactive information modules will provide visitors with a comprehensive presentation of the Roman Emona heritage scattered over the wider city centre area. As part of a wider strategy the City of Ljubljana is following a primary objective: to establish a system of cultural heritage management policies and develop contemporary methods of heritage popularisation in the public realm. By implementing cutting-edge technology and innovative design, the interpreted content of the conserved heritage will help users better understand the city and its urban development. Contemporary interpretation techniques (in-situ, multimedia virtual reconstructions, mobile applications, etc.) will provide new possibilities for various cultural, educational and tourist programmes.

The parks feature in-situ restored Emonan house, an Early Christian baptistery and extensive remains of the Emona embankment wall. The presentations will be upgraded with new events programmes catering different user groups (citizens, school groups, tourists, disabled, families with children) Archaeological parks, that have so far only been accessible in the summer months to guided group tours, will from 28th September 2102 be open to public and individual access throughout the year.



photo: Barbara Jakše 1

In 1928 Jože Plečnik designed a new square - a perfect geometric net of lighter shades of concrete plates and darker borders that paved the unified and open space between the Ljubljana's most formidable Italian baroque Ursuline Church and the Slovenian Philharmonic building. In the seventies the square was paved with asphalt and turned into a parking lot.

A new concept of lighting and a redevelopment into a pedestrian zone upgrades the original design by Plečnik with a modern ambition and promotes the programmatic articulation of the original architectural idea: a monumental main city square for all public events a classicist park catering only to programs and events suited to the standards of a municipal park, a lively urban atmosphere with al-fresco sitting and music on the side streets from Kazina to Wolfova Street and the Slovenian Philharmonic.



photo: Nik Rovar 4



Ljubljana, Kongresni trg 2

1 Aerial photo of the square before construction; archaeological excavations have already started

2 Congress Square by Jože Plečnik in 1941

3 Plečnik's original plan for Congress Square

4 Congress Square reconstructed in 2011

5-7 Renovated monuments that embellish Congress Square and 'Zvezda' park - sign of the Holy Trinity, 'The Anchor' and the Citizen of Emona statue

8 Entrance to the underground car park in 'Zvezda' park

9 *In-situ* presentation of an original Roman well, found during construction of the stairway to the underground car park.



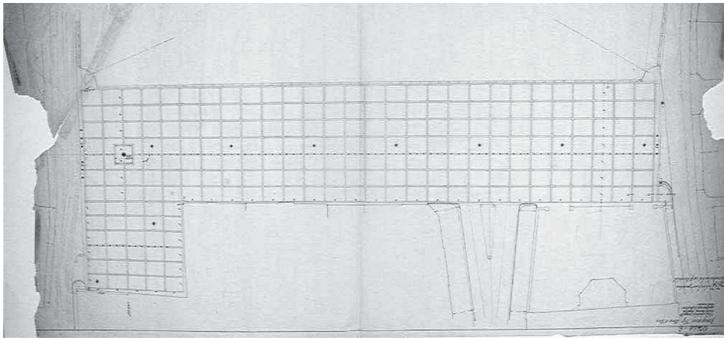
photo: Mitja Prelovšek 5



6



7



3



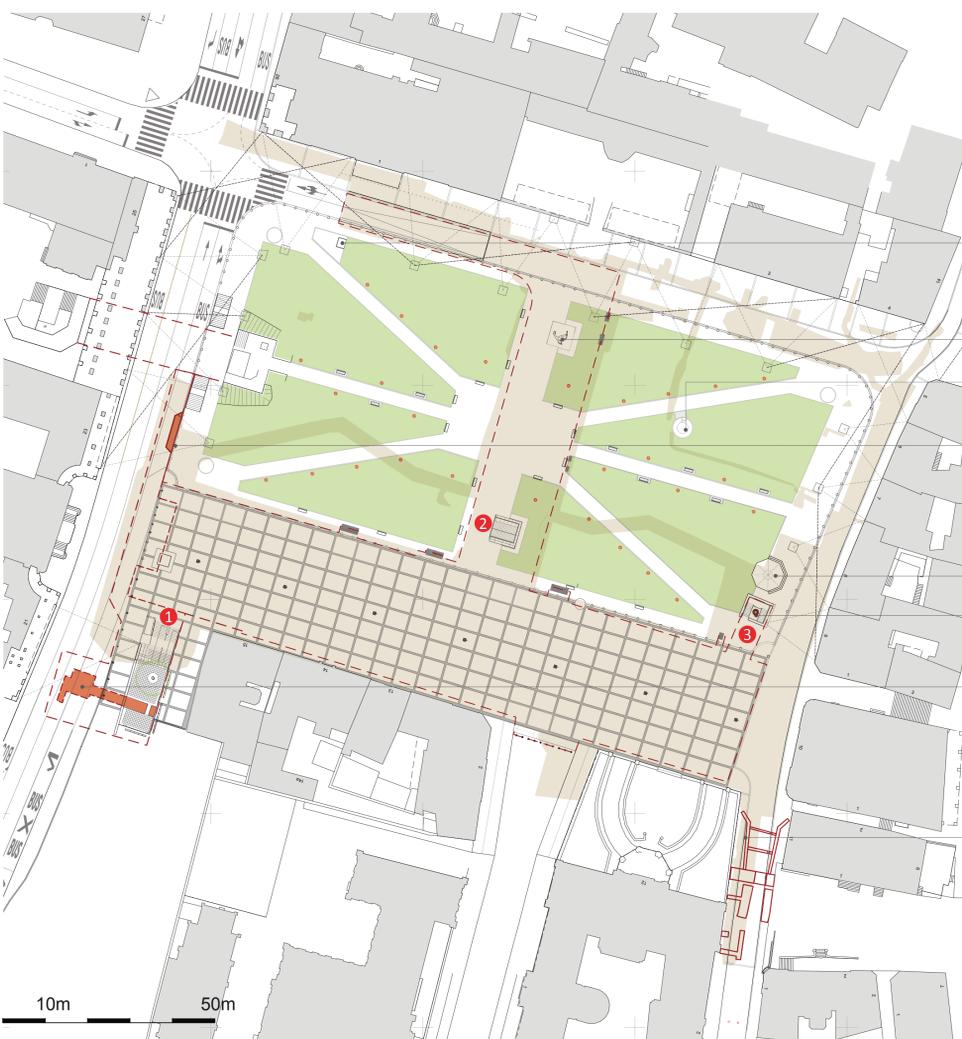
photo: Tom Ruttink 8



photo: Tom Ruttink 9

CONGRESS SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT

LJUBLJANA - URBAN HERITAGE CONNECTED



Site plan of the Congress Square redevelopment with elements of the built heritage and *in-situ* presentations

Restored monument of women demonstrations

'The Anchor' monument dedicated to the formal annexation of Zone B of the Free Territory of Trieste in 1954, restored

Restored 'Kobe' fountain placed on the site of a well inside the former capuchin monastery

In-situ presentation of the original Roman road in the underground passage

Relocated and restored bandstand pavillion

In-situ presentation of an original Roman well

In-situ presentation of the northern Emona city gate and Roman embankment wall

A planned presentation of the excavated foundations of the Vice Duke's city gate from the early modern period

Legend:  Extent of the archaeological excavations prior and during construction

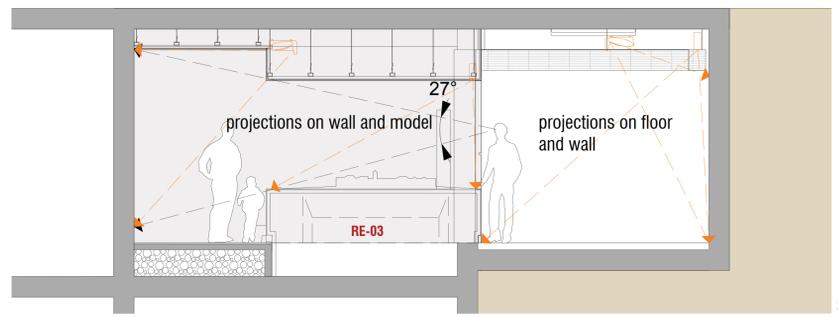
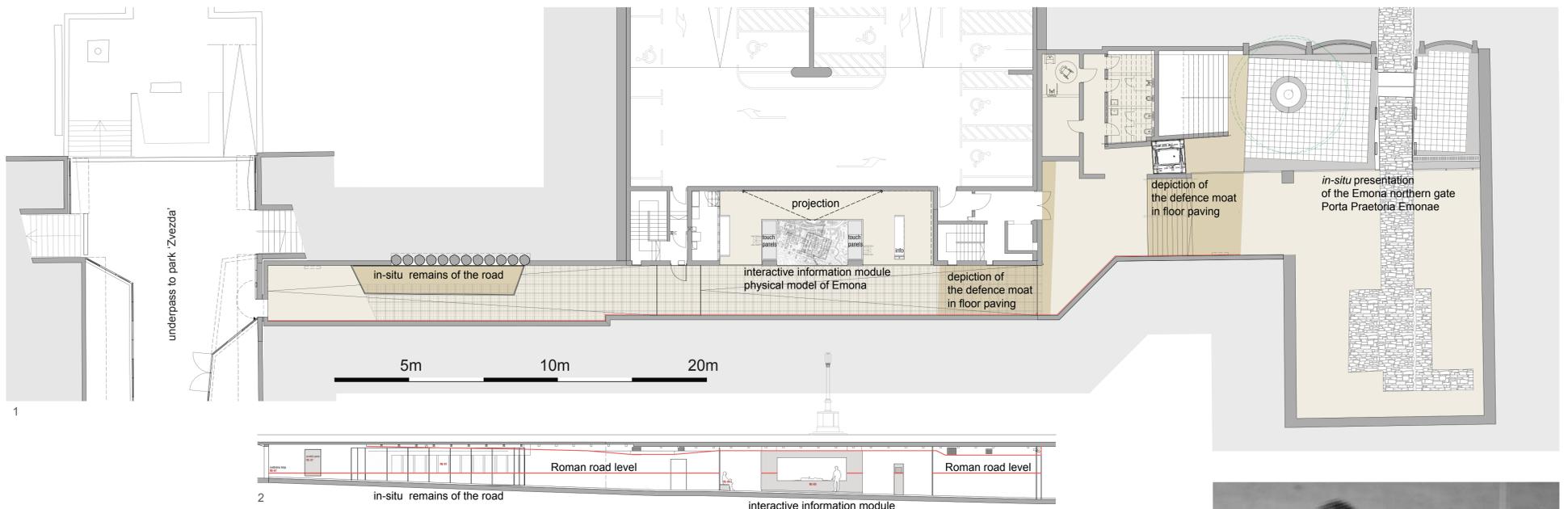
 Extent of the *in-situ* presentations

 Extent of the underground structure

 Entrances to the underground car park

On account of the 'Kongresni trg' redevelopment and respectively the construction of the underground parking very important archaeological discoveries have been made on this site, dating back to the bronze age, affirming a former idea of a wholesome approach to cultural heritage presentation within the project. Three exits from the underground garage comprise a permanent exhibition of the findings, emanating mainly from the Roman 'Castrum Iulia Emona' and the later capuchin monastery. The most important part of this assembly is an underground connection to the car park integrating the northern Emona gate atrium where *in-situ* remains of the original Roman road and city gates are presented. Together with the existing found vestiges of the golden Roman statue 'Emonec' - Emona Citizen - and a lapidary featuring a Roman 'hypocaust' this connection has become a part of a larger system as an underground archaeological promenade.

10m 50m



- 1 Floor plan of the underground complex - Emona promenade, a virtual museum
- 2 Longitudinal section showing reference to the *in-situ* Roman road presentation
- 3 Longitudinal section of the interactive information module room
- 4 Transverse section showing the concept of the museum presentation with interactive projections
- 5 *In-situ* remains of the Roman road Emona - Celeia inside the protective glass casing
- 6 Temporary installation with a photographic exhibition of archaeological discoveries, awaiting construction of the museum

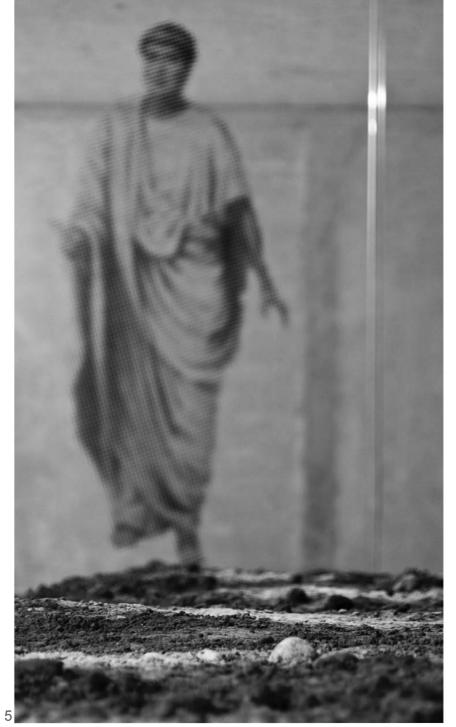
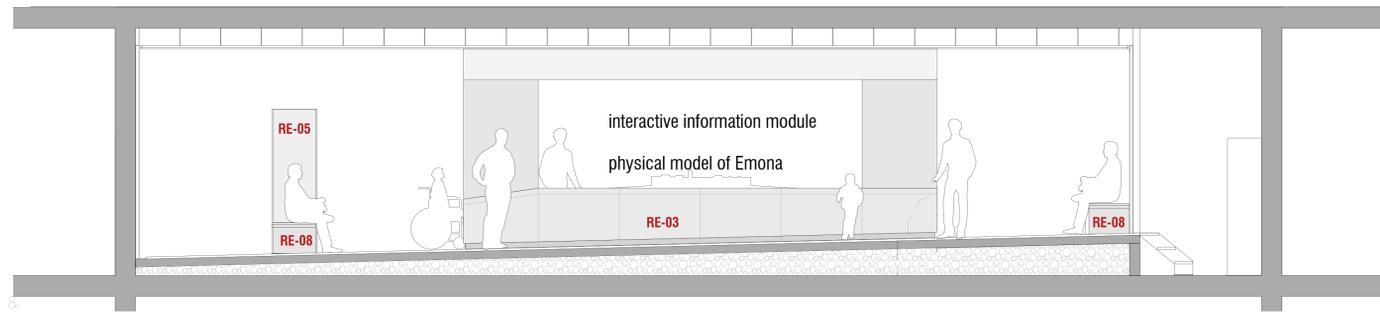
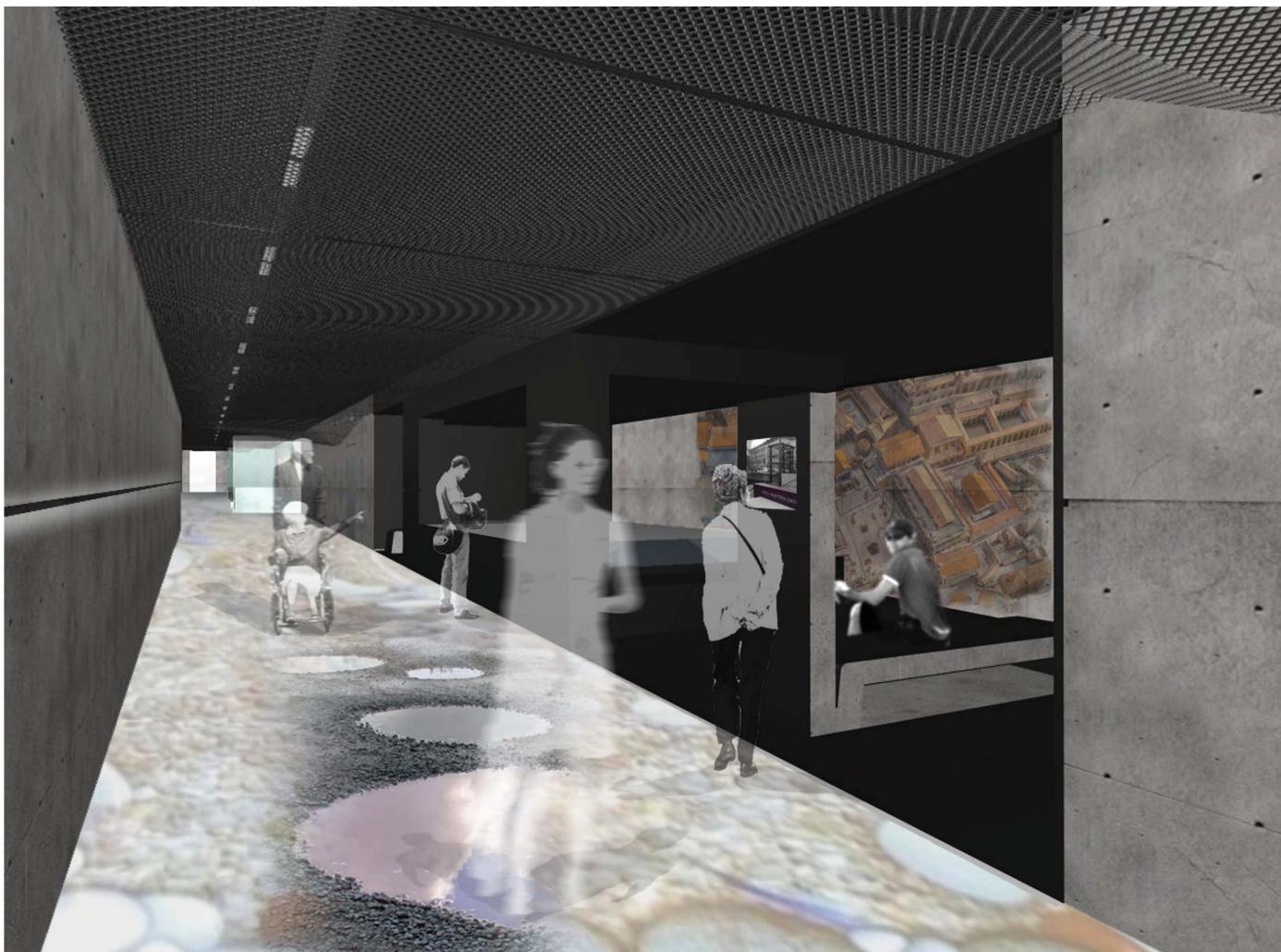


photo: Tom Ruttink

EMONA PROMENADE VIRTUAL MUSEUM

LJUBLJANA - URBAN HERITAGE CONNECTED



Artist's impression of the permanent virtual exhibiton on Emona in the souterrain passage to the car park

What would otherwise be an obscure underground passage will now become a space of a curated interactive experience. Featuring an in-situ remains of the original Roman road the permanent exhibition will be dedicated to the presentation of the road and a virtual museum interpretation of the life on it. The informational content will be provided through an interactive module table comprising touch-screen pads and a scaled three-dimensional model of Emona, inserted into the context of the modern city. The Emona promenade exhibition will also reveal the substantial archaeological findings of the Congress Square area. It will also act as information-reference spot to other existing and renovated archaeological parks in the city.



6

PREMIO GUBBIO 2012

Participant: City of Ljubljana

LJUBLJANA – URBAN HERITAGE CONNECTED

Case study – Congress Square and Roman Emona archaeological parks in Ljubljana

Ljubljana is a city boasting rich archaeological and architectural heritage revealing its exceptional past since the prehistoric times. Long since were therefore strong public awareness and governing policies present within the municipality towards preservation and innovative presentation of cultural heritage.

Perhaps the most significant of the presented heritage are the archaeological sites from the Roman Emona period. Especially the *in-situ* method of presentation and its integration in the built environment has always proved a challenge both for the professionals of the archaeological and conservation sciences and the community. Whilst offering a great cultural and tourism potential the sites unfortunately often remain neglected, mostly due to lack of a holistic management strategy. For the most part archaeological monuments so far were also lacking concise interpretative contents and management policies all contributing to their diminished importance. Additionally, many of the historic remains are still hidden beneath the surface of the modern city inaccessible to the public, as was the case of the Congress Square and 'Zvezda' park.

In this context, as part of a wider strategy the City of Ljubljana is following a primary objective: to establish a system of cultural heritage management policies and develop contemporary methods of heritage popularisation in the public realm. By implementing cutting-edge technology and innovative design, the interpreted content of the conserved heritage will help users better understand the city and its urban development. Contemporary interpretation techniques (in-situ, multimedia virtual reconstructions, mobile applications, etc.) will provide new possibilities for various cultural, educational and tourist programmes.

The first and very substantial step in this direction has been made with the recent Congress Square redevelopment and an establishment of an information network on Roman Emona. This will be followed by the presentation of the prehistoric settlement period featuring the world's oldest wooden wheel and the fascinating cultural heritage of the Ljubljana marsh pile-dwellings listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Completing this comprehensive presentation will be the module on Ljubljana's medieval urbanism with a purpose-built information spot in the city old centre. The entire museum presentation and management of the Roman Emona built heritage has been entrusted to the City Museum of Ljubljana.

Other immediate objectives will be the conservation and restoration of various monuments with revitalisation through new programmes for different user groups (citizens, schools, tourists, etc.).

CONGRESS SQUARE AND EMONA OBJECTIVES AND THE REALISATION OF THE PROJECT

Reconstruction of the Congress Square has been tied to a public underground car-park development and presents a successful contemporary case study on architectural heritage reconstruction and archaeological heritage integration into a modern unavoidable urban structure. Its opening in June 2011 was coupled with Ljubljana having been awarded funds from the Operational programme for strengthening regional development potentials 2007-2013 which provided for the next stage – the museum presentation and information spot on Roman Emona within the newly built underground complex.

CONGRESS SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT

Congress Square with 'Zvezda' Park represents the most important classicist urban composition in central Ljubljana. Its last significant reconstruction was designed by the renowned Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik in 1928, approximately one hundred years after Congress Square and 'Zvezda' park were constructed in honour of the Ljubljana congress for the Holy Alliance. A perfect geometric net of lighter shades of concrete plates and darker borders paved the unified and open space between the Ljubljana's most formidable Italian baroque Ursuline Church and the Slovenian Philharmonic building. In the seventies, the square was paved with asphalt and turned into a parking lot. Former sandy paths of 'Zvezda' park were paved with asphalt and the park has since been subject to poor maintenance and burdened with inappropriate activities.

The municipality of Ljubljana carried out an open competition in 2004 for the refurbishment of Zvezda Park and Congress Square where a subterranean parking garage was to be built. The winning project strived to preserve the heritage of Plečnik, as a cultural monument of national value". Conceptual elements of the award-winning proposal by A. Prelovšek, D. Gašparič, M. Juvanec have been preserved to the final design stage. The project respectfully appropriates the rich cultural heritage and again reveals the historical layers of this place, one that is kept most dearly in the Ljubljana citizens' memories.

A new concept of lighting and a redevelopment into a pedestrian zone upgrades the original design by Plečnik with a modern ambition and promotes the programmatic articulation of the original architectural idea: a monumental main city square for all major public events, a classicist park catering only to programs and events suited to the standards of a municipal park, a lively urban atmosphere with *al-fresco* sitting and music on the side streets from Kazina to Wolfova Street and the Slovenian Philharmonic.

On account of the 'Kongresni trg' redevelopment and respectively construction of the underground parking very important archaeological discoveries have been made on this site, dating back to the bronze age, affirming a former idea of a wholesome approach to cultural heritage presentation within the project. Three exits from the underground garage comprise a permanent exhibition of the findings, emanating mainly from the Roman 'Castrum Iulia Emona' and the later capuchin monastery. The most important part of this assembly is an underground connection to the car park integrating the northern Emona gate atrium *where in-situ* remains of the original Roman road and city gates are presented. Together with the existing found vestiges of the golden Roman statue 'Emonec' - Emona Citizen - and a lapidary featuring a Roman 'hypocaust' this connection has become a part of a larger system as an underground archaeological promenade.

EMONA PROMENADE BENEATH CONGRESS SQUARE

What would otherwise be an obscure underground passage will now become a space of a curated interactive experience. Featuring an *in-situ* remains of the original Roman road the permanent exhibition will be dedicated to the presentation of the road and a virtual museum interpretation of the life on it. The informational content will be provided through an interactive module table comprising touch-screen pads and a scaled three-dimensional model of Emona, inserted into the context of the modern city. The Emona promenade exhibition will also reveal the substantial archaeological findings of the Congress Square area. It will also act as information-reference spot to other existing and renovated archaeological parks in the city. The opening of the Emona promenade is planned in October 2012 all being part of a series of events celebrating the 2000th anniversary of Emona in 2014.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARKS

On the city scale, the network of interactive information modules will provide visitors with a comprehensive presentation of the Roman Emona heritage scattered over the wider city centre area. The parks feature *in-situ* restored Emonan house, an Early Christian baptistery and extensive remains of the Emona embankment wall. The presentations will be upgraded with new events programmes catering different user groups (citizens, school groups, tourists, disabled, families with children) Archaeological parks, that have so far only been accessible in the summer months to guided group tours, will from 28th September 2012 be open to public and individual access throughout the year.