



V1 - ConfEx Park aerial view / From Mountain to Sea

ConfEx Park

THESSALONIKI | 2021-

Thessaloniki, placed between the mountains and sea, is layered with memories of its history and cultures; its present reputation as Greece's largest and most influential northern city and its ambition to be the Balkan Region's major business and tourist destination.

The new ConfEx Park, at the heart of Thessaloniki, embodies the city's ambition to be the region's major business and tourist destination, linking present and future ambitions. Its strategic location will shape an urban area to host international events while offering local meeting spots for the residents, thus, representing the city's traditions, memories and reputation for hospitality. The ConfEx Park landscape is the conduit by which these qualities can be expressed, reflecting these layers in contemporary form and making it a destination for all who live in and visit the city.

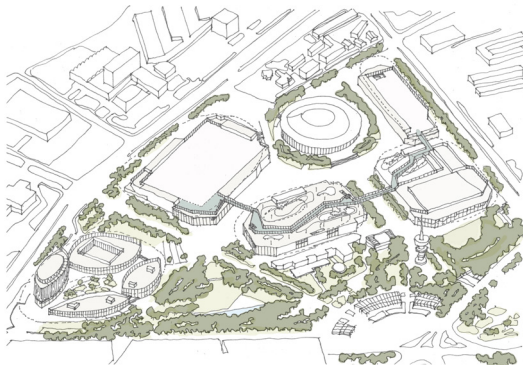
The freestanding buildings for exhibitions and congresses are embedded in the flowing space of the new public park, which seamlessly

transitions into open-air exhibition areas. With generously overhanging roofs, floating like clouds above the landscape, the built ensemble is recognizable from afar.

The foyers are designed like pavilions attached to the big halls and serve as cultural and social venues, especially during intermediate phases of exhibition conversions. Echoing the size of the existing cultural buildings, these pavilions reconcile the scale of the exhibition halls with that of the surrounding city. On the first floor level, a walkway in the sky connects the pavilions and invites us to take a stroll with a view over the rooftops.

With flexible exhibition halls and a fairground regenerated into a verdant nexus, ConfEx Park will be a beacon of technical and social sustainability for its residents.

SCOPE
Landscape Design, Urban Design & Architecture for Exhibition Centre
CLIENT
TIF-Helexpo S.A.
PROJECT DURATION
2021 - ONGOING
SIZE
17.5ha
TEAM
Sauerbruch Hutton
Gustafson Porter + Bowman
Stravropoulou Architects
Terrel Group
Helliniki Meletitiki S.A.
Afrý
Ldk Engineering Consultants S.A.
B & T Pyrgiotis Technical Office
Anodos S.A.
JML Water Feature Design
Edafos
Ergonomia
Aris Tsagkrasoulis





V4 - View from Amphitheatre Meadow to Congress Hall



V2 - Arrival Square view from Egnatia/Aggelaki junction



V3 - Exhibition Hall 2 / View from "Vasari Corridor" towards



As one moves around the city centre, one observes the many excavated sites, historic buildings and monuments, that provide orientation and an oasis of calm in what is a densely built urban environment.

The design for ConfEx Park, picks up major routes that fan out from the ancient city, and reintroduces them for pedestrians and cyclists. The 'Culture Path' connects the Exhibition Halls and Congress Centre to the MMCA and the Archaeological and Byzantine Museums, while the 'Central Axis' emphasizes the relationship between mountain, sea, University, ConfEx Park and wider city.

The landscape naturally splits into three parts: the Western Area between Aggelaki and the central axis, that becomes a space for play and temporary installations; the Central Area that fans out from the YMCA Square and the Contemporary Art Gallery that becomes the location for small scale cultural gardens, and garden cafes arranged around the existing curved canopy; and the South Area adjacent to Leoforus Stratou that addresses the new Conference Centre, which will become a large amphitheatre for performance and events.

The park's three landscaped areas provide for a range of planted habitats, that allow for the introduction of a diverse range of native and cultural trees and plants found in the Thessaloniki region. These are trees and plants that are capable of resisting climate change and the ever increasing extremes of temperature, storms and drought. The greater the diversity of plants, the greater the range of wildlife they will support and the more resilient the plant and wildlife populations will become. This increase in biodiversity will create a natural ecosystem within Thessaloniki, helping to support a healthy environment for its citizens.

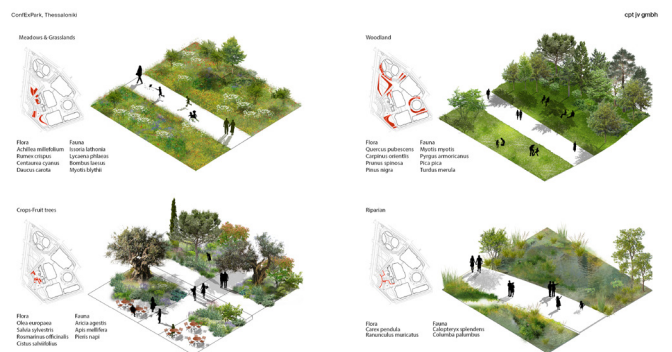
The Water Management Strategy across the site is to collect the rainwater from hard paved areas and new building roofs to be re-used for irrigation and provide water supply for the untreated water for the vegetated water features. In addition to this, a series of dry swales will also act as attenuation devices to mitigate stormwater events. Ideally any excess of water will also be conveyed to an underground collection/attenuation system to further provide water supply.



Culture Path view towards OTE Tower the sea



YMCA Square aerial view with pergola and café



Landscape Characters