THE CONTEMPORARY BAZAAR

Bazaars, in Isfahan, have been acting as the centres of the city for centuries. Traditional bazaars are arranged in a rectangular format, of repeated units/stores centring a courtyard and divided by a central axis that connects the two main portals. The configuration promotes circular movements within itself however constrains its possibilities to communicate with the surrounding areas in a larger context.

In the proposed Contemporary Bazaar, the skeleton of traditional bazaars is extracted and physically bended to reconstruct an active organism that stimulates a more dynamic and intimate trading atmosphere. The new market lanes open up to the streets and the adjacent bazaars to attract visitors from all directions. Instead of acting as an enclosed individual entity, it connects and interacts with the surrounding market areas to together invigorate the free and fluid essence of a marketplace.

The structure of the Bazaar also suggests an area where private and public spaces are loosely defined. The space of the building is not physically bound to limit its accessibility to the public. It doesn’t aim to filter or exclude any class of people thus it serves no purpose of forging a social disintegration of the locally grounded forms on togetherness and shared communal living.

The trading stands are in fact mobile and can be packed away in occasions when it would become a spacious pavilion and turn into a pedestrian zone. The civic precinct it creates would comfortably accommodate larger flows of visitors/pedestrians and public and passive cultural and social activities hence benefit social interactions.

The undulating roof floating above the structure, visually it realises the vibrant flow of the bazaar. It reinforces the absence of definite structural boundaries which frees any seemingly restricted movements and the porosity of its skin encourages the building to breathe with an inviting gesture.