



## New Market Hall of Pécs

**Pécs is rich in visible traces of architectural heritage starting from the Roman Empire until the early modernism - some main characters of the Bauhaus Movement were born in the city. The aim was to strengthen this unique identity in order to create a house accepted by the society and give space for the community life of Pécs beyond the functional needs.**

Along the main north-south axis Pécs is connected to the Italian impact at several points. The city used to be part of the Roman Empire, a provincial headquarter called Sopianae. Later it stayed under Ottoman rule for 120 years still holding the pattern of that period, then the early modernism was affected by Italian impact beside the Bauhaus. In this complexity were the task to find the architectural expression of the new market hall beyond the functional needs.

The urban concept was not to demolish the old market hall nearby, our suggestion was to find a new function instead. Also from inside the new building is organised according to sustainable way of thinking. The pattern of the arches is familiar for the citizens opposite to the radicalism of the modernism where the socially hardly accepted buildings often become the victim of amortization and demolishment (the problem of short life term).

Early in the designing process we found two commercial archetypes: the classical basilica and the eastern bazaar. The Roman basilica was a commercial and legislative 'public' hall, actually the present public buildings and market halls originate from it, the Christians started to use this type later. The eastern bazaar primarily is a commercial archetype, but a community forum in the same time (Grand Bazaar in Istanbul).

In the new market hall both archetypes appear, of course in an abstracted way. It was a critical question how to articulate this abstraction. The aim was to recall the archetypes without direct quotes. The most radical abstraction of the basilica is the huge longitudinal glass opening on the north side. This is the first site the users meet arriving from the market square, and from inside this is a visual connection to the city and the Mecsek hills.

The primary loadbearing structure gives the main character of the interior, like a German 'Edelrohbau' in a Middle-European way. The further layers for installations and interior elements are restricted for the minimum.

The new market hall finally is a result of the urban situation, the familiar cultural and historical layers and the desire for sustainability.

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Getto Tamás és Sztranyák Gergely

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**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTfRYabL5G8>



