

## **ARASTA - I AM A MONUMENT**

<sup>a</sup> **Senat N. Haliti**

Architect at HAUS, Prishtina, Kosovo, [senat@hausarch.com](mailto:senat@hausarch.com)

<sup>b</sup> **Margarita Azizi,**

Architect at HAUS, Prishtina, Kosovo, [margarita@hausarch.com](mailto:margarita@hausarch.com)

### **Keywords**

(Covered Bridge, Heritage Re-Interpretation, Collective Memory, Prizren):

### **Abstract**

Cities or even parts of them during their evolution experience various transformations which we might not like, but those transformations become an integral part of their history and identity.

Ideas to demolish the New Arasta Bridge with the aim of its restitution on an earlier period with the price of erasing traces of Prizren's development - layered in the collective memory, except that interfere in the history of urban development, they may reflect confusion not only today, but also to future generations. Thus, the reconstruction of the bridge, when Prizren center has lost most significant heritage assets (bazaar, mosque, karvansaraj, traditional houses, shops) moreover, in a part which has changed a lot during the last century, won't help strengthen the identity of the center, but on the contrary, would weaken it by erasing the (new) identity this bridge has built in this part of the center.

I AM A MONUMENT design is distinguished by a strong intervention, with a kind of macro sculpture conceived as a depiction and qualifying element of the city, respectively of the (old) Bridge. The bridge, covered by a pergola - build of light plastic tubes, is designed as an artificial element - a reduced interpretation of Arasta's outline and stands in direct relationship with naturalness and silhouette of the old city. A continuous path - a straight line of about twenty meters, takes three-dimensional evocation with the "portal" presence set of the tubes, becoming a kind of open tunnel, as evident from the vicinity - so invisible from a distance, uniting two parts of the city, just as the old bridge did.

I AM A MONUMENT is homage to the disappearing historic center, the pride of Prizren, about its bridges and everything beautiful this part of the city once housed inside, and today no longer exists.



1: Covered Arasta Bridge, Anonymous photographs from Wiena Osterreichische Nationalbibliothek, 1906



2: I AM A MONUMENT, HAUS, 2015