

COMPETITION BRIEF

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION

VILNIUS CONGRESS CENTRE

ORGANISER:



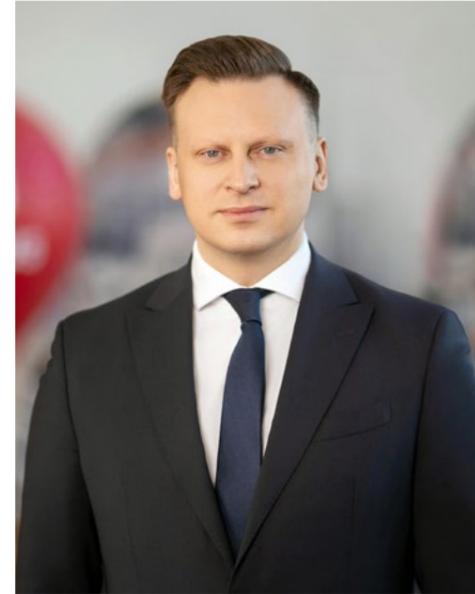
VILNIAUS
VYSTYMO
KOMPANIJA

CUSTOMER:



VILNIUS





Valdas Benkuskas, Mayor of Vilnius

I would like to invite architects from around the world to contribute to the creation of a new symbol of Vilnius – the Vilnius Congress Centre.

This project is more than a building. It is a place where science, business, innovation and great ideas come together to shape meaningful international dialogue. Vilnius has earned a global reputation as a vibrant hub of innovation, where fintech, biotechnology, laser technologies and high-tech industries are advancing at an impressive pace.

Our ambition is clear: to become the leading destination for international conferences and events in the Central and Eastern European region. In doing so, we seek to create long-term socioeconomic value for Lithuania and its capital, reinforcing the image of a state that is progressive, innovative and sustainable. Today, Vilnius competes confidently for talent, investment and global events, and the new Congress Centre is set to become the cornerstone of this strategy.

Undoubtedly, Vilnius stands on a strong foundation. The capital sits in a strategic position between Northern and Eastern Europe, with direct flights linking it to more than 60 cities across Europe. Yet what truly distinguishes Vilnius is its ease: a compact city where conference venues, hotels and the Old Town are all within walking distance or just a few minutes by public transport.

Few cities integrate diverse eras and experiences as effortlessly as Vilnius. It is precisely this synthesis that the Vilnius Congress Centre will encapsulate: a striking work of contemporary architecture, open to the city, to nature, and to the world. It will become a place where the capital welcomes world-class events, encourages the sharing of knowledge, culture and business, and builds new bridges between nations.

I invite architects to design not just a new building, but a new token of Vilnius's future. An architectural space that encapsulates the city's ambition, energy, and community spirit. Together, we can create a landmark that will become a symbol of a modern, green, and open European capital, affirming Vilnius as a city that delights those who choose to create and be here.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Vilnius Congress Centre (VCC) is a project of strategic importance, aimed at creating modern infrastructure for international congresses, conferences, and events. Currently, Lithuania lacks a dedicated venue capable of hosting over 2,000 participants in a single location, causing Vilnius to miss opportunities to attract large-scale international events and congresses.

At the same time, the city possesses exceptional potential: a robust academic and innovation ecosystem, a growing hotel sector, good air transport connections, and attractive pricing. However, without modern, sustainable, and flexible event infrastructure, this potential remains largely untapped.

1.2 PROJECT AMBITION

The Vilnius Congress Centre will become a premier venue for high-level international conferences, congresses, and political and cultural events, meeting contemporary standards of functionality, practicality, safety, and sustainability. It will be a prestigious building of the highest architectural quality, distinguished not only by clear functional logic and flexibility but also by an inclusive, publicly accessible open space. The planned centre will enable the organisation of world-class events, offering transformable halls, state-of-the-art technology, A++ energy efficiency, and convenient pedestrian access from the city centre. The project will integrate seamlessly into the urban fabric of the city and strengthen Vilnius's position on the international conference market.

1.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- **To create a top-tier congress centre building** in Vilnius for international conferences, congresses, and high-level political events, meeting high standards of functionality, prestige, safety, and sustainability.
- **To establish convenient, attractive, and clear approaches to the congress centre**, ensuring prestige, recognisability, wayfinding, and efficient flow management.
- **To create a respectful urban and spatial link with the memorial site** – the monument to the fallen soldier, A. Sakalauskas – preserving the possibility of holding official commemorations and shaping a compatible public space.
- **To integrate the congress centre into the broader Naujamiestis urban fabric**, ensuring seamless and convenient pedestrian connections to the Neris riverbank and adjacent perimeter blocks.
- **To ensure recognisability and excellent wayfinding through continuous and clear visual connections** between the congress centre, the surrounding streets, and public spaces.
- **To create an attractive, engaging, and publicly accessible riverside space** at the approaches to the future Albertas Bridge, functionally and visually aligned with the overall vision for the Neris riverbanks and the congress centre site.

1.4 PROJECT SITE

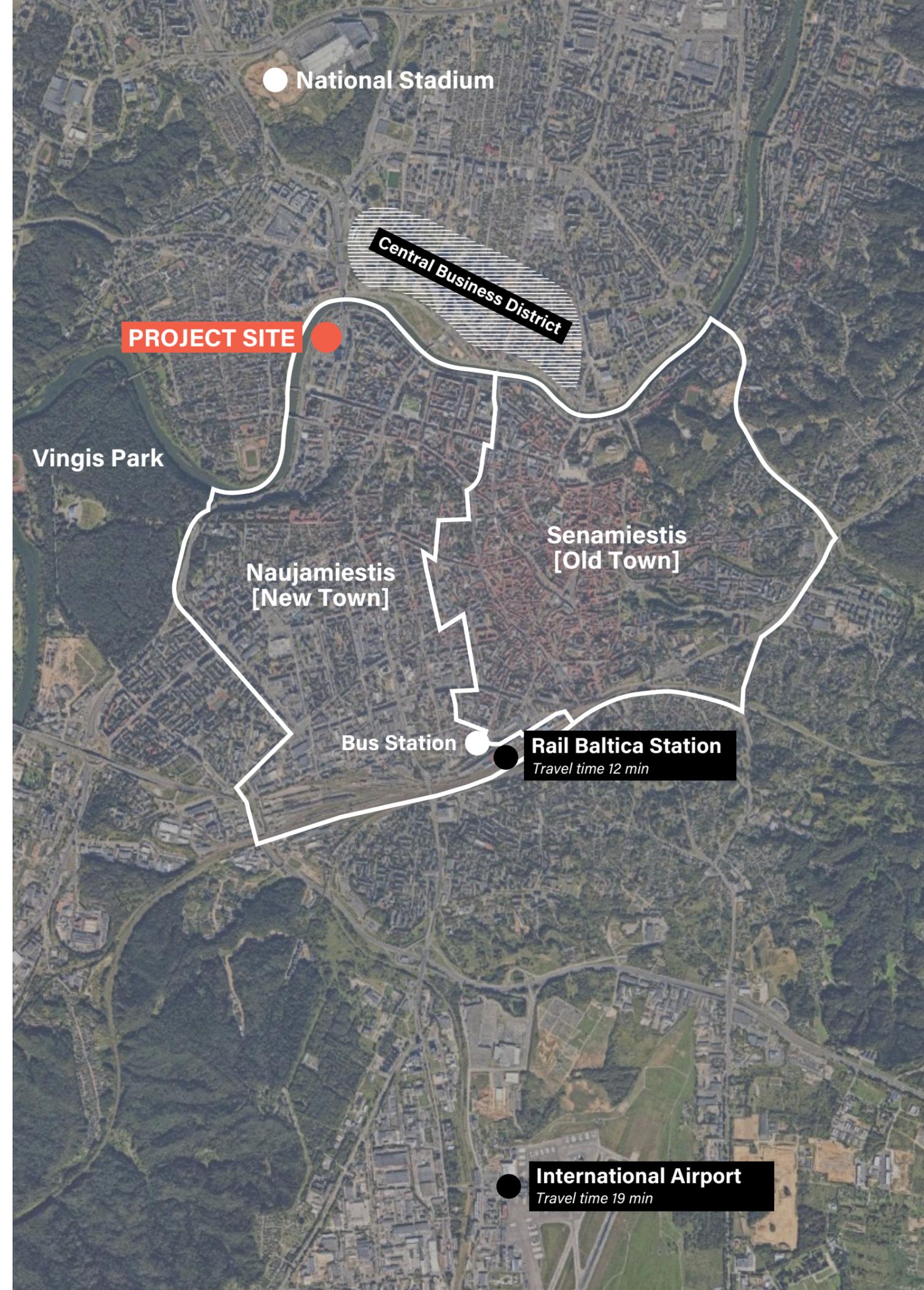
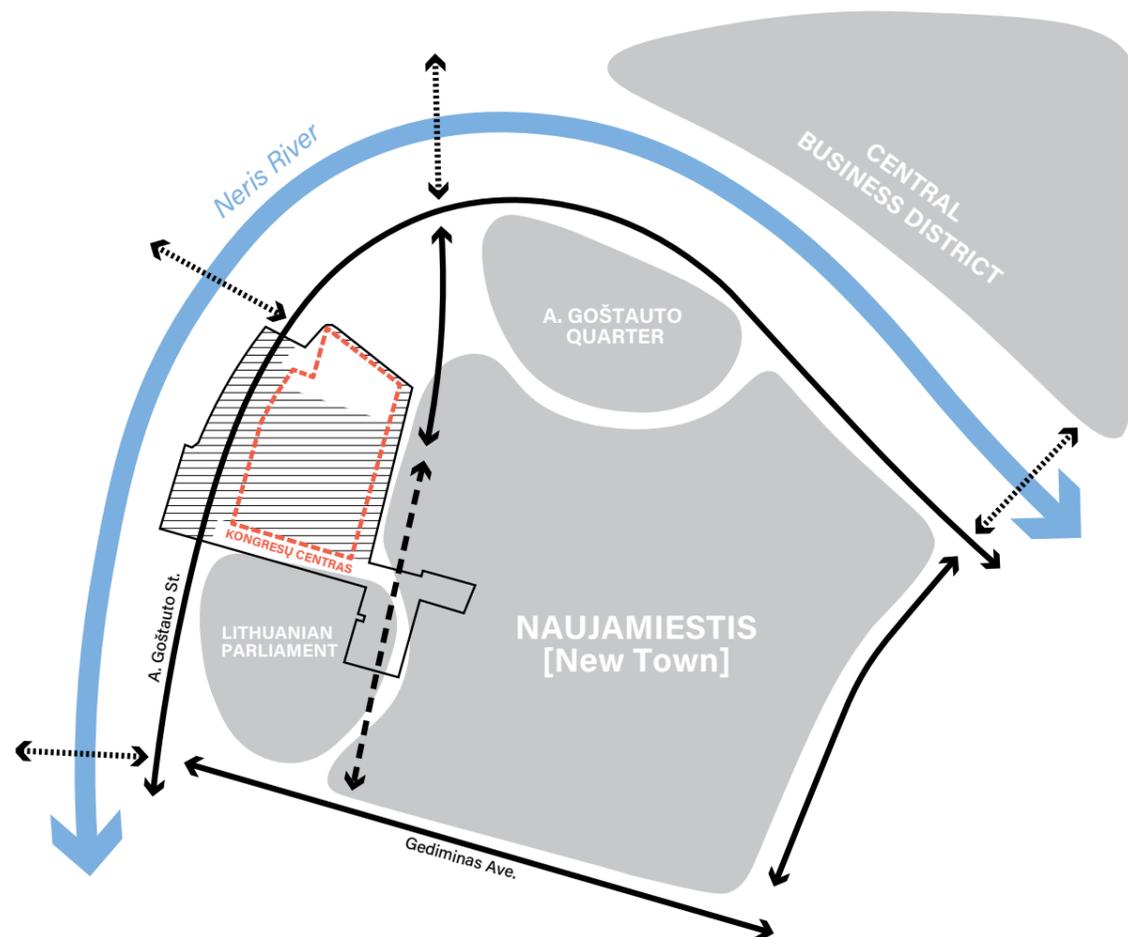
The site assigned for the congress centre is located in central Vilnius in the Naujamiestis district, adjacent to A. Goštauto Street and the Neris River. The location is easily accessible on foot, by public transport and by car, and is within easy reach of the central business district on Konstitucijos Avenue, the districts of Senamiestis [Old Town] and Naujamiestis [New Town], and the railway and bus stations.

The proposed plot adjoins strategically significant buildings: the Seimas Palace of the Republic of Lithuania, the National Martynas Mažvydas Library, and the Vilniaus Vartai office complex. To the east, the site opens onto A. Goštauto Street and the Neris River; to the south,

it adjoins A. Tumėno Street; to the west, Geležinio Vilko Street; and to the north, the Circle K petrol station.

The plot is currently undeveloped and is used as a car park for the Seimas Palace. The remaining area is grassed. In the north-western part of the site stands a commemorative stone dedicated to Artūras Sakalauskas, a volunteer soldier and defender of the Supreme Council-Reconstituent Seimas, who died on 21 August 1991 defending Lithuania's independence. This location serves as an important space of remembrance and commemoration.

The site is situated within a dynamic environment undergoing transformation: the former Lukiškės Prison area is being renovated, the Goštauto Street business quarter is taking shape, and the construction of the new Albertas Bridge, linking both banks of the Neris, is planned.



1.5 HISTORY

The competition site is located within the historic Lukiškės suburb, on the western edge of Vilnius's historic centre. The first signs of urban development in this area only appeared in the 18th century, with individual wooden warehouses documented along the riverbank. Due to frequent unrest (war, plague), the Lukiškės suburb integrated slowly into the city's urban structure. Until the 17th century, Lukiškės was sparsely populated and perceived as an outlying area. The competition site comprised private properties with gardens. An 1808 plan shows that Plaustininkų Street ran through the plot, though it later disappeared from maps. Development of the competition site was constrained by the construction of the Vilnius Governorate Central Prison nearby in 1820. During the interwar period, the area was developed with individual industrial and storage buildings. In the Soviet era, the ground level of the plots was raised for the construction of the Supreme Council of the Lithuanian SSR building, and a car park was established on the site. Around 1980, an underground tunnel was constructed beneath the square adjacent to the building.

The competition site holds historical significance as part of the 1991 independence struggles, symbolised by the Seimas Palace of the Republic of Lithuania. During this period, a barricade crossed the competition plot to protect the building.

To honour the defenders of the Parliament in 1991 and commemorate those who fell defending freedom, memorial markers were installed near and within the Seimas Palace: the 13th of January Memorial, commemorative plaques, granite posts marking barricade locations around the building, and the adjacent street was renamed Gynėjų [Defenders'] Street in memory of the Parliament's defence.

Within the competition site lies the commemorative stone dedicated to volunteer A. Sakalauskas, who died defending Lithuania's independence on 21 August 1991 while blocking a Soviet army assault near the Seimas Palace. In the median strip of A. Goštauto Street stands a post marking the location of the barricade.

Fragmentary archaeological surveys were carried out on the competition site in 2006, 2008, 2017, and 2019, during which no archaeological finds or intact cultural layers were identified. The most relevant report is provided in the competition's reference materials.

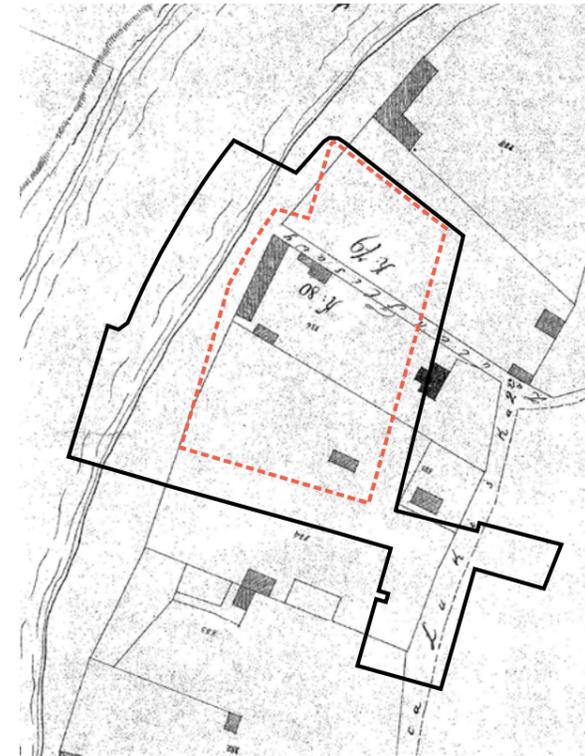


Fig. 1 1808 plan | Vilnius DNR



Fig. 2 Plan of 1845 | Vilnius DNR



Fig. 3 1938 topographic plan | Vilnius DNR



Fig. 4 Topographic plan of 1977 | Vilnius DNR

Fig. 5 The approaches to the Parliament from the Geležinio Vilko Street side were protected by an anti-tank ditch and a barricade constructed from trucks and building slabs. One of the slabs reads: "Lithuania will be free," with the Seimas III building visible in the distance. Vilnius, January 1991

Photographer Vytautas Daraškevičius. Vytautas Daraškevičius Personal Archive (Source: LRS)



Fig. 6 On the right – the Supreme Council Building of the Republic of Lithuania; on the left – the Martynas Mažvydas National Library; Vilnius Vartai had not yet been built above the tunnel. Vilnius, 20–21 August 1991

Photographer Romualdas Jurgaitis. Romualdas Jurgaitis Personal Archive

Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania Archive (Source: LRS)



Fig. 7 Guard post and vehicle access point to the area near the Supreme Council Building of the Republic of Lithuania during the August 1991 coup. Vilnius, 21 August 1991

Photographer Jonas Juknevičius, Lithuanian Central State Archive. 0-121813 (Source: LRS)



1.6 VOLUNTEER ARTŪRAS SAKALAUSKAS PARK

In the north-western corner of the site stands a commemorative stone marking the location where Artūras Sakalauskas, a volunteer soldier and defender of the Supreme Council-Reconstituent Seimas, died on 21 August 1991 while halting a Soviet army attack near the Seimas Palace in defence of Lithuania's independence.

Annual commemorations of his death are held at this stone. Planning documents for the area stipulated that a public space would be created here to commemorate the volunteer's sacrifice. At present, commemorations take place in the grassed area surrounding the stone and on A. Goštauto Street, where the guard post and vehicle access point to the Supreme Council Building area were located in 1991.

The 21st of August has been designated in Lithuania as the day commemorating the death of volunteer soldier and Parliament defender Artūras Sakalauskas.



Fig. 8 21 August 2023 – ceremony honouring volunteer soldier Artūras Sakalauskas at the site of his death, by the commemorative stone. (Source: LRS)

1.7.2 ACCESSIBILITY

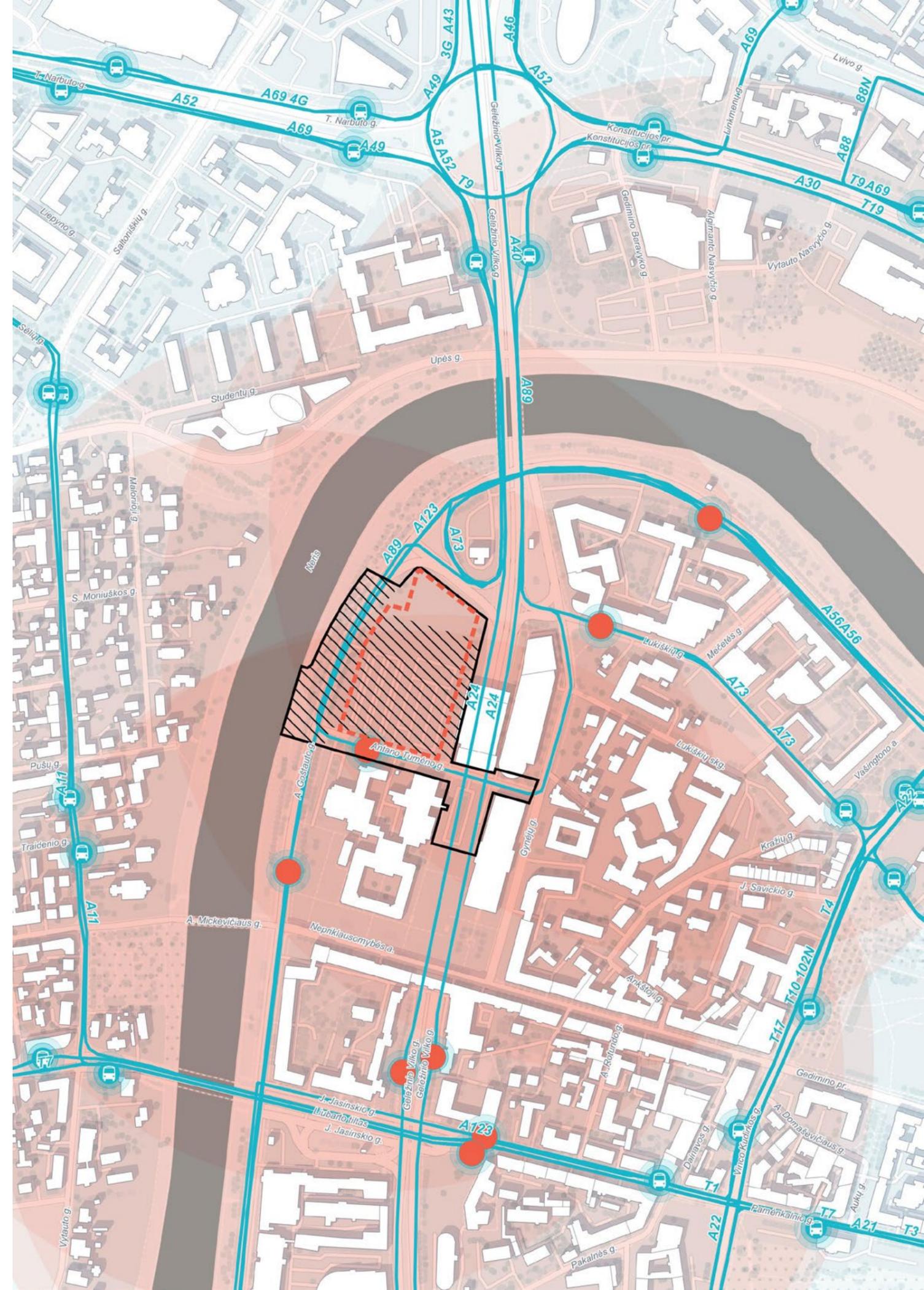
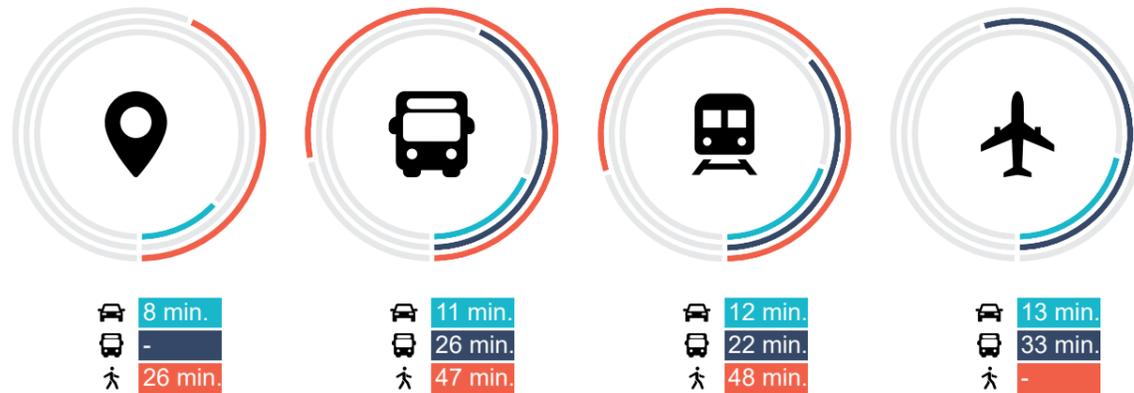
The plot selected for the Vilnius Congress Centre is strategically well located. Travel time from the airport averages 13 minutes by car and approximately 30 minutes by public transport. From the bus or railway stations, the journey takes about 11-12 minutes by car and 20-25 minutes by public transport. From Rotušės Square, it is approximately 8 minutes by car and ~26 minutes on foot.

The competition site is relatively easily accessible by public transport via Geležinio Vilko, A. Tumėno, A. Goštauto, Lukiškių, and J. Jasinskio Streets. Near the site, on A. Tumėno Street, there is a public transport stop served only by bus route 89, arriving approximately every 50 minutes.

Within a 500-metre radius of the site, surrounding public transport stops offer bus and trolleybus routes with average frequencies of ~15 minutes.

The main pedestrian flows from Senamiestis arrive via Gediminas Avenue. It is expected that the primary pedestrian flow toward the Vilnius Congress Centre will come precisely from this direction. Guests will arrive from hotels located in Naujamiestis and Senamiestis.

-  Current plot boundary
-  Competition objects
-  Procurement objects
-  Accessibility of public transport stops - 500 m
-  Public transport routes
-  Adjacent public transport stops
-  Public transport stops

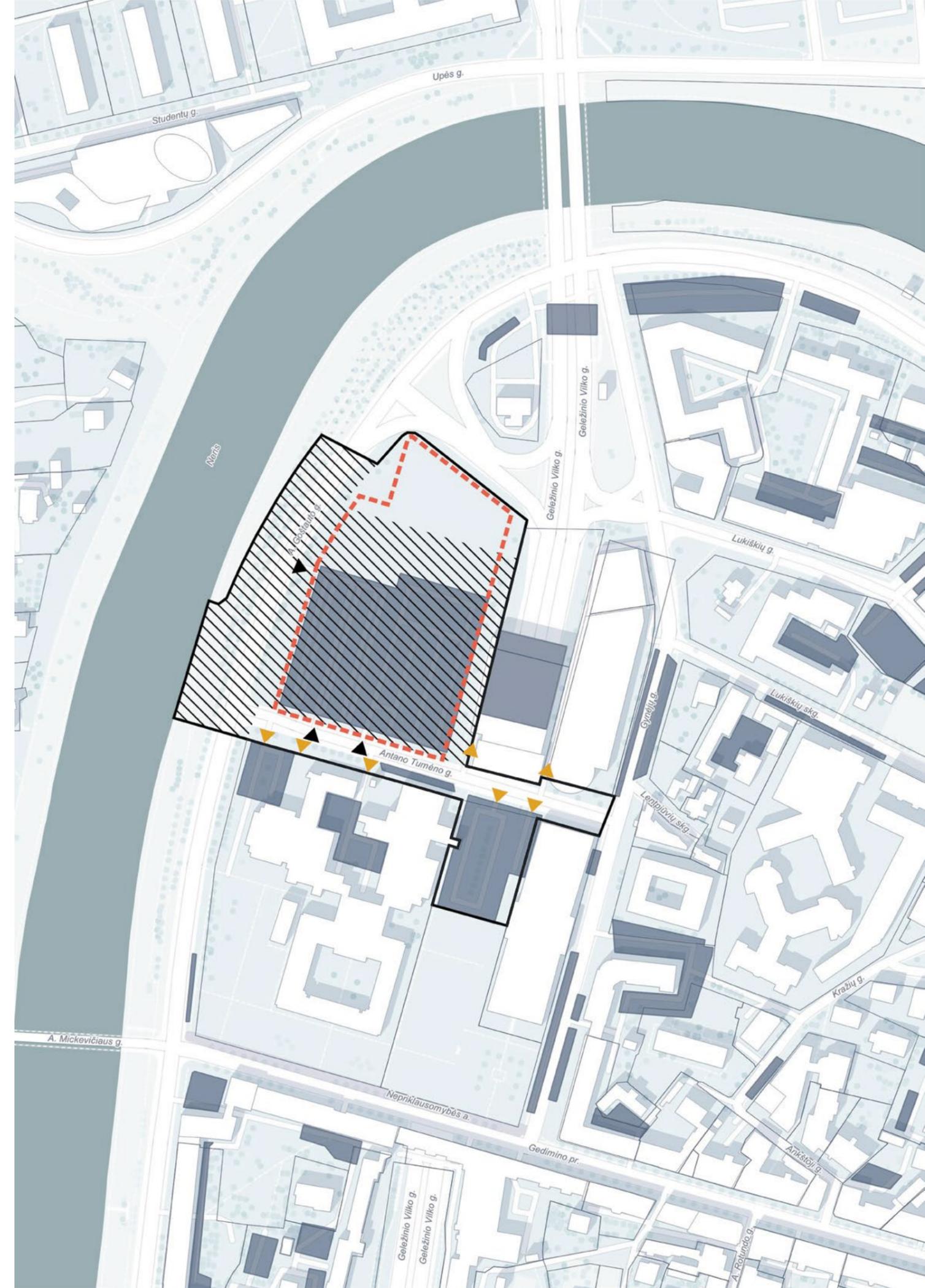


Street network: the competition site borders A. Goštauto Street (2+2 traffic lanes) on its western side, 3+3-lane Geležinio Vilko Street on the eastern side, and secondary 1+1-lane streets to the north and south (A. Tumėno Street). The surrounding streets intersect at unregulated junctions.

Parking: surface and multi-storey car parks are located in the vicinity of the competition area. The current car park within the VCC plot accommodates ~380 vehicles; near the Seimas Palace and Martynas Mažvydas Library entrances – 120 spaces; above Geležinio Vilko Street – ~220 spaces.

Logistical servicing: the buildings surrounding the competition site are serviced via A. Tumėno Street: the Seimas Palace – from A. Tumėno Street; the Martynas Mažvydas Library – via the car park between the Seimas Palace and the library; the administrative building at A. Tumėno St. 4 – from A. Tumėno Street; the administrative building at Gynėjų St. 14 – from its internal courtyard, which is accessed from A. Tumėno Street.

-  Current plot boundary
-  Competition objects
-  Procurement objects
-  Plot boundaries
-  Existing car parks/areas
-  Entrance to the competition area
-  Entrances to surrounding areas



1.7.3 VCC IMPACT ON TRAFFIC FLOWS

In 2025, the State Enterprise JUDU conducted traffic flow studies and developed a morning peak macro-model for 2024. Taking into account known territorial developments and projections based on Vilnius General Plan solutions, it was determined that from 2024–2040, the number of residents in the analysed zone could increase by approximately 32 %, and workspaces by about 31 %. As more attractions emerge in the city centre and along A. Goštauto Street, traffic loads in this area will also rise.

Based on the analysis, widening A. Goštauto Street is not recommended, as this would further disconnect the city from the Neris riverbank. Geležinio Vilko Street will remain the primary axis for through traffic, while A. Goštauto Street will serve existing and future adjacent buildings (not transit). Merging into Geležinio Vilko Street currently occurs via a single lane. Adding dedicated acceleration (or deceleration) lanes would be difficult and space is limited. Moreover, the street capacity is primarily determined by signalised intersections and a coherent network. By 2040, A. Goštauto Street is projected to reach saturation with one traffic lane (direction dependent on peak hours), i.e. its theoretical capacity.

Traffic disruptions during VCC events cannot be entirely avoided, as attraction to the venue generates a simultaneous surge, leading to an increase in atypical manoeuvres. Temporary traffic management schemes will be implemented during events.

1.7.4 VISITOR EXPERIENCE WHEN APPROACHING THE COMPETITION SITE

Although public transport stops are located close to the future congress centre plot (2–10 minutes away), visitor experiences when walking from the stop to the VCC vary significantly. The most convenient stop for reaching the plot is the Juozo Tumo-Vaižganto stop near Lukiškės Square. From there, visitors proceed along Gediminas Avenue, cross Nepriklausomybės Square near the Seimas Palace, pass the Seimas car park, and arrive at the VCC. Visitors will also frequently use the Jokūbo Jasinskio stop. Unfortunately, walking from this stop to the plot requires passing alongside Geležinio Vilko Street, through poorly designed access areas of administrative and residential buildings, and past the Seimas Palace. The visitor experience walking from public transport stops to the VCC should be improved.



1.7.5 PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

The competition site borders the green slopes of the Neris River on its western side, yet the only public space in the immediate vicinity is Nepriklausomybės Square adjacent to the Seimas Palace of the Republic of Lithuania and the Martynas Mažvydas National Library. On the opposite bank of the Neris lie Eduardas Balsys Square, Sakura Square, Džemal Dudajev Square, and the Žvėrynas playground. These spaces lie within a 500-metre radius. Other public spaces located east of the plot are more than 500 metres away but still accessible on foot.

Although the project site is close to Nepriklausomybės Square and the Neris embankment, these areas are either difficult to access on foot (no pedestrian crossing across A. Goštauto Street to the embankment) or obstructed by car parks (the square). As is typical throughout Naujamiestis, the area lacks recreational spaces and greenery, particularly vegetation that could serve as a buffer between intensive transport infrastructure and buildings.

 Current plot boundary

 Competition objects

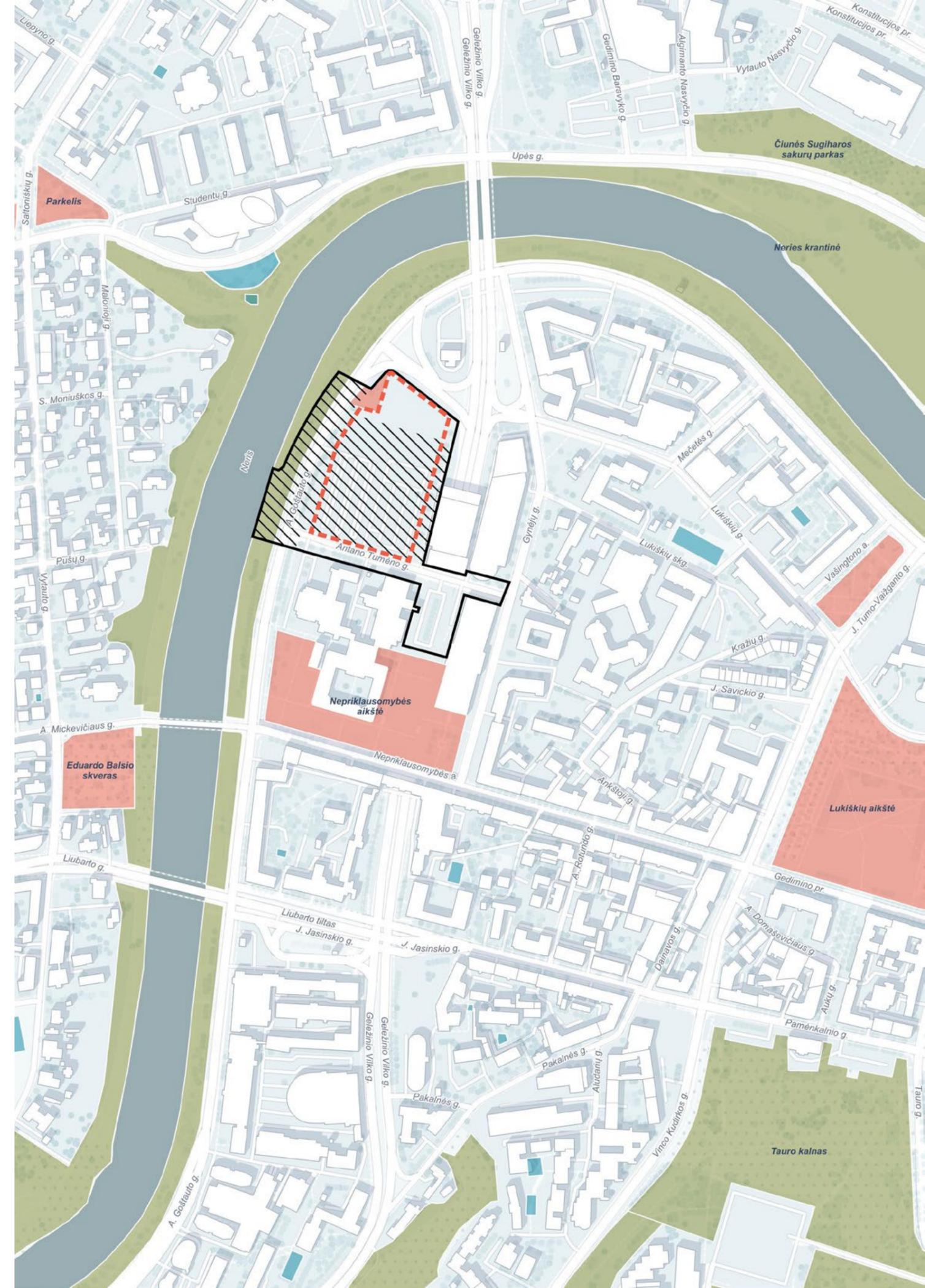
 Procurement objects

Public areas

 Parks, grassed areas, other

 Squares, small squares

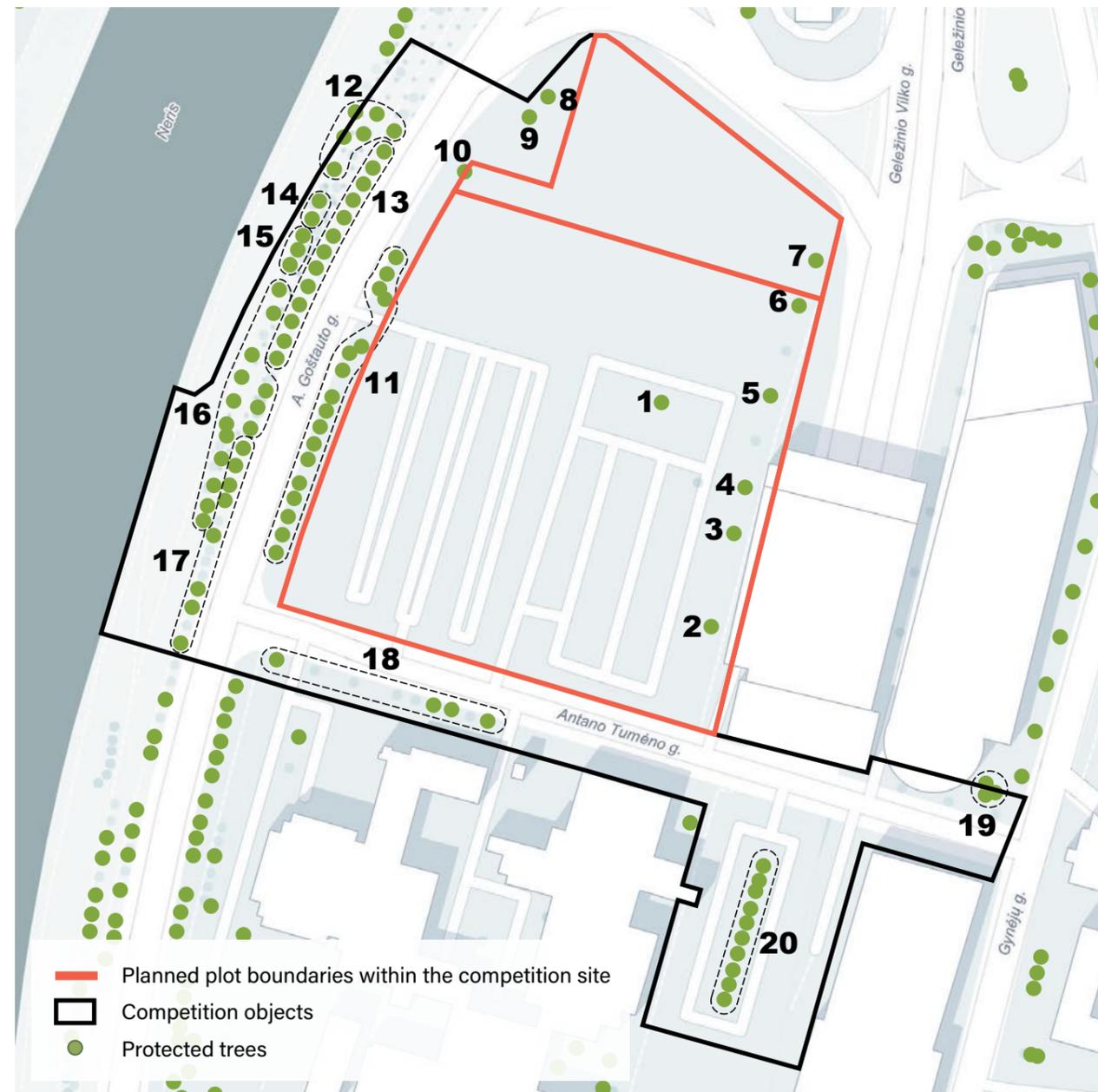
 Sports areas and playgrounds



1.7.6 LANDSCAPING

Currently, six trees (marked numbers 1–6) grow on the plot designated for the planned Vilnius Congress Centre, and two additional trees (marked numbers 7 and 10) are located on the plot intended for the planned hotel.

When preparing proposals, it is important to preserve as much existing vegetation as possible, regenerating, renewing, and supplementing it where feasible. Where preservation is not possible, compensatory measures must be implemented in accordance with the “Rules for the Protection of Greenery and Landscaping of Vilnius City Municipality”.



No.	Type	Condition	Diameter (cm)	Height (m)	Number of trees per group
1	White poplar	Satisfactory	96	20	1
2	Horse chestnut	Satisfactory	23	8	1
3	Horse chestnut	Satisfactory	25	8	1
4	Horse chestnut	Satisfactory	25	9	1
5	Horse chestnut	Satisfactory	21	8	1
6	Horse chestnut	Satisfactory	20	8	1
7	Horse chestnut	Satisfactory	27	9	1
8	Pedunculate oak	Satisfactory	27	9	1
9	Pedunculate oak	Satisfactory	24	7	1
10	Silver lime	Good	7	5	1
11	Silver lime	Good	6-8	5	17
12	Norway maple	Satisfactory	20-32	6-13	6
13	Horse chestnut	Satisfactory	19-31	4-9	13
14	Common ash	Good	6	7	2
15	Small-leaved lime	Good	6	7	3
16	Norway maple	Fair/good	5-32	7-10	14
17	Horse chestnut	Satisfactory	21-32	5-9	8
18	Norway maple	Satisfactory	22-30	8-11	4
19	Small-leaved lime	Satisfactory	22-33	10-11	3
20	Austrian pine	Satisfactory	25	7	10

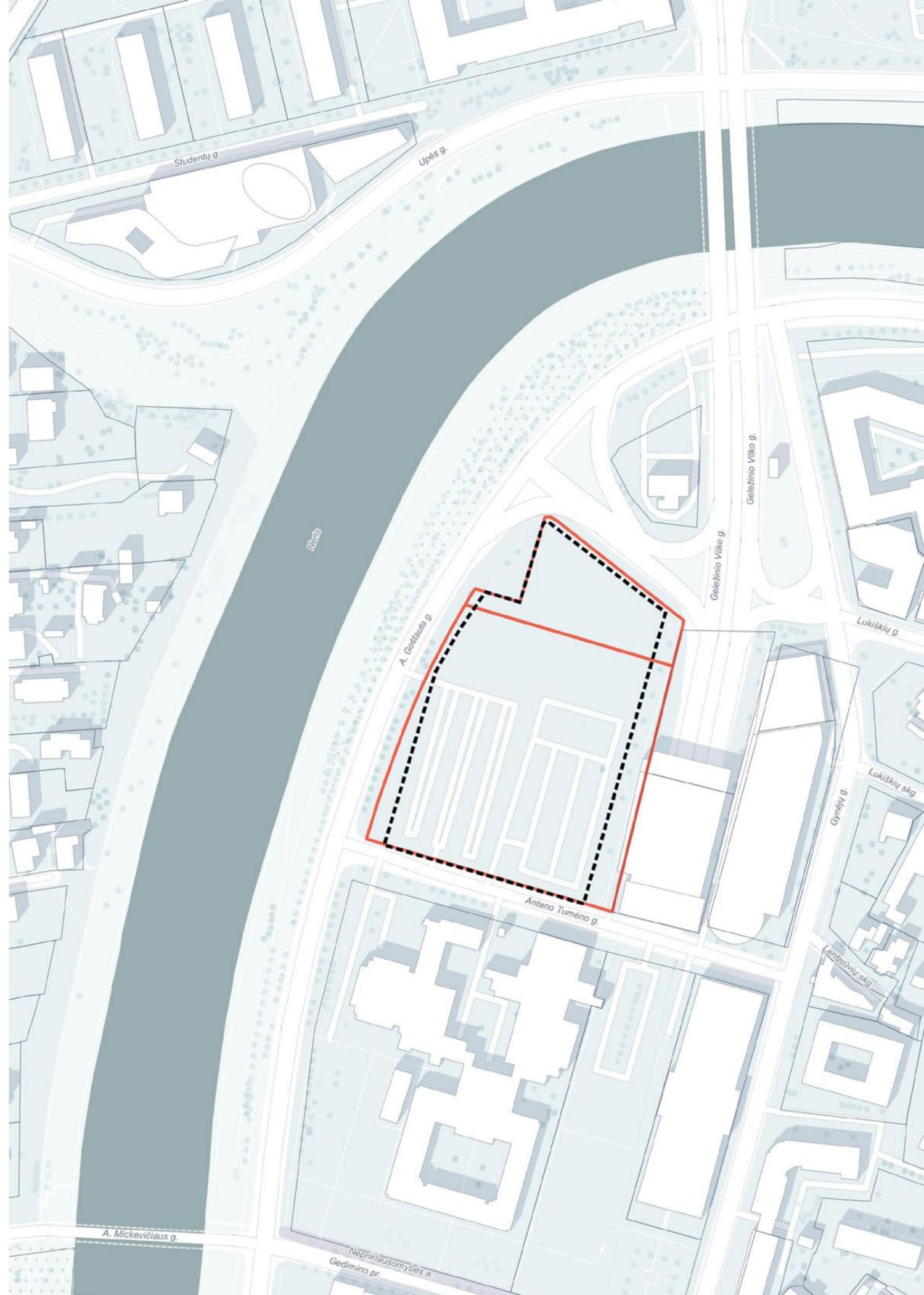
1.8 APPLICABLE STRATEGIC AND SPATIAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS

1.8.1 DETAILED PLAN

The detailed plan currently in force for the area is undergoing revision (T00055054). The reference number of the spatial planning document amendment process: K-VT-13-25-716). Participants are advised to follow the competition brief and its stipulated spatial requirements, which are consistent with the Vilnius City General Plan.

During the amendment process, new plot boundaries will be established. The diagram below illustrates the existing and proposed plot boundaries. Participants are requested to base their proposals on the future plot boundaries.

-  Current plot boundary
-  Planned plot boundaries within the competition site
-  Plot boundaries



1.8.2 VILNIUS CITY MUNICIPALITY GENERAL PLAN UNTIL 2030 (SPD NO.: T00086338)

The competition site falls within three functional zones: the main city centre functional zone (NJM- 23 1), the engineering infrastructure corridor zone, and the intensively used greenery zone (NJM-2433). The main city centre functional zone is a mixed-use area with high development intensity, primarily comprising residential environments, administrative, service, retail, and other non-polluting economic activities, along with supporting infrastructure, greenery, and public spaces.

-  Current plot boundary
 -  Competition objects
 -  Procurement objects
- Functional zones**
-  Water zone
 -  Medium building intensity residential zone
 -  Main centre zone
 -  City centre zone
 -  Specialised complexes zone
 -  Engineering infrastructure corridor zone
 -  Intensively used green areas zone



TERRITORY ZONING REGULATIONS:**Main City Centre Functional Zone (NJM-23-1)**

Types of land use: mixed city centre area (GC), mixed residential area (GM), service area (PA), social infrastructure area (SI).

Primary land use designation: other-purpose land (KT).

Permissible land uses: G2 (multi-family residential buildings and dormitory areas), K (commercial-use building areas), V (public-purpose areas), R (recreational areas), B (common-use areas), I2 (transportation and utility corridor areas), E (individual landscaped areas).

DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS:

- Predominant development height – **7 storeys.**
- Maximum permissible building height above ground level – **35 m.**
- Building arrangement type – **pr_u; pr_a** (pr_u: perimeter development, pr_a: closed or open).
- Maximum permissible plot development intensity (UI) – **5.0.**
- Maximum permissible plot development density (UT) – **80 per cent.**

Development height (predominant) – the predominant height of structures planned for the area. The Vilnius City General Plan specifies either the number of storeys or the building height in metres per block; within this block, up to 20 % of the total existing and planned development area may exceed the predominant height, but not beyond

the maximum permissible development height. This calculation includes basement levels, attic floors, and mezzanines or raised structures. The possibility of exceeding the predominant development height is determined when preparing a local-level comprehensive spatial planning document, based on an analysis of the urban context and the need to shape or accentuate the local townscape through distinctive local features.

TEXTUAL REGULATIONS OF THE GENERAL PLAN:

02 – Plot development intensity (UI) may be increased by up to 10 % if social infrastructure facilities or commercial premises with street-level entrances are installed on the ground floor of buildings facing the street.

03 – When preparing a local-level spatial planning document (SPD), the UI may be increased by up to 10 % if car parking is provided exclusively in underground parking facilities (except for spaces designated for specialised transport).

04 – Newly constructed or reconstructed buildings with a gross floor area exceeding 5,000 m² must be certified under a sustainable development criteria-based building certification system recognised in Lithuania or another European Union member state, as selected by the developer.

05 – Mandatory car parking spaces required by municipal regulations may be located between the red street lines, thereby compensating for mandatory parking spaces not provided on the plot, as permitted by law. These spaces cannot be reserved for private use; they must remain publicly accessible and may be subject to charges.

09 – Car parking spaces between red street lines and buildings are prohibited, except where a different parking layout is stipulated in a comprehensive site-level SPD.

10 – Development arrangements and public space structures must follow the historical spatial formation principles characteristic of the area.

18 – Additional regulations are specified in the Immovable Cultural Heritage drawings and regulation table (General Plan Explanatory Note, Appendix 2).

1.8.3 CULTURAL HERITAGE CONCEPT AND REQUIREMENTS IN THE GENERAL PLAN

Cultural Heritage Concept and Requirements in the General Plan

The site falls within Naujamiestis perimeter block No. 23 (viz-nau-luk-3) according to the zoning and regulation scheme of the visual protection subzone (suburban areas) of Vilnius Senamiestis (16073).

Name of historic suburb – Lukiškės.

Territorial management priorities include the development of urban structures in accordance with the established development arrangement type; regulated changes permissible within the boundaries of the dominant suburban morphological type; management of historic public spaces; adaptation for cultural tourism purposes; and prioritisation of public space – the Neris River embankment.

Development/morphological type – perimeter development, predominantly perimeter block.

32 – The area or its part (according to the General Plan Natural Framework Scheme) is subject to the requirements of the Natural Framework provisions.

34 – The area or its part (according to the General Plan “Geomorphological Elements of the Natural Framework” drawing) is subject to the Regulations for the Protection and Management of Floodplain Terraces.

35 – The area or its part (according to the General Plan “Geomorphological Elements of the Natural Framework” drawing) is subject to the Regulations for the Protection and Management of First Terraces Above the Floodplain.

Maximum permissible plot development intensity (UI) – ≤ 4.5.

Predominant (“background”) building height above ground level – 32 m.

Maximum building height from the level of the ground should not be higher than 35 m. (up to 20 % of the proposed project’s building footprint).

Mandatory studies/justification for change include the preservation of valuable characteristics of Naujamiestis; regulated modifications to urban structure allowed, provided the relationship between the natural and developed silhouettes is maintained.

In the case of discrepancies between the main General Plan drawing and the regulations of its composite parts (text or graphic), the provisions imposing stricter limitations on development shall prevail.

1.8.4 VIEWPOINTS

PRIMARY VIEWPOINTS ACCORDING TO THE VILNIUS CITY GENERAL PLAN:

1. Gediminas Hill
2. Trijų Kryžių Hill
3. The southwestern hill of the Altarija hill range, known as Altana Hill
4. Observation deck on Subačiaus Street
5. Intersection of Subačiaus and Maironio Streets
6. Šv. Jonų Church bell tower
7. The slopes of the Šeškinė Hills
8. Katedros Square
9. Rotušės Square
10. S. Daukanto Square
11. The Senamiestis panorama from the pedestrian promenade on the right bank of the Neris River, connecting Kalvarijų Street with the approaches to the Lietuva Hotel
12. Lukiškės panorama from Tauras Hill

ADDITIONAL VIEWPOINTS ACCORDING TO THE VILNIUS CITY GENERAL PLAN:

13. Near Lapų Street (at Šv. Nikodemo Cemetery)
14. Square adjacent to the Vilnius koncertų ir sporto [Concert and Sports] Palace
15. Baltasis Bridge over the Neris
16. Žirmūnai Bridge
17. Terrace of the VCUP shopping centre

- Planned plot boundaries within the competition site
- Competition objects
- Main viewpoints
- Additional viewpoints



1.8.5 THE CONCEPT OF THE NATURAL FRAMEWORK AND REQUIREMENTS IN THE GENERAL PLAN

The site lies within the nationally significant Neris migration corridor, in an urbanised portion of the natural framework (the NF). In street corridors adjacent to the plot – A. Goštauto Street and Gynėjų Street – structural green connections must be incorporated as a measure to reinforce the NF, forming an interconnected network of NF elements.

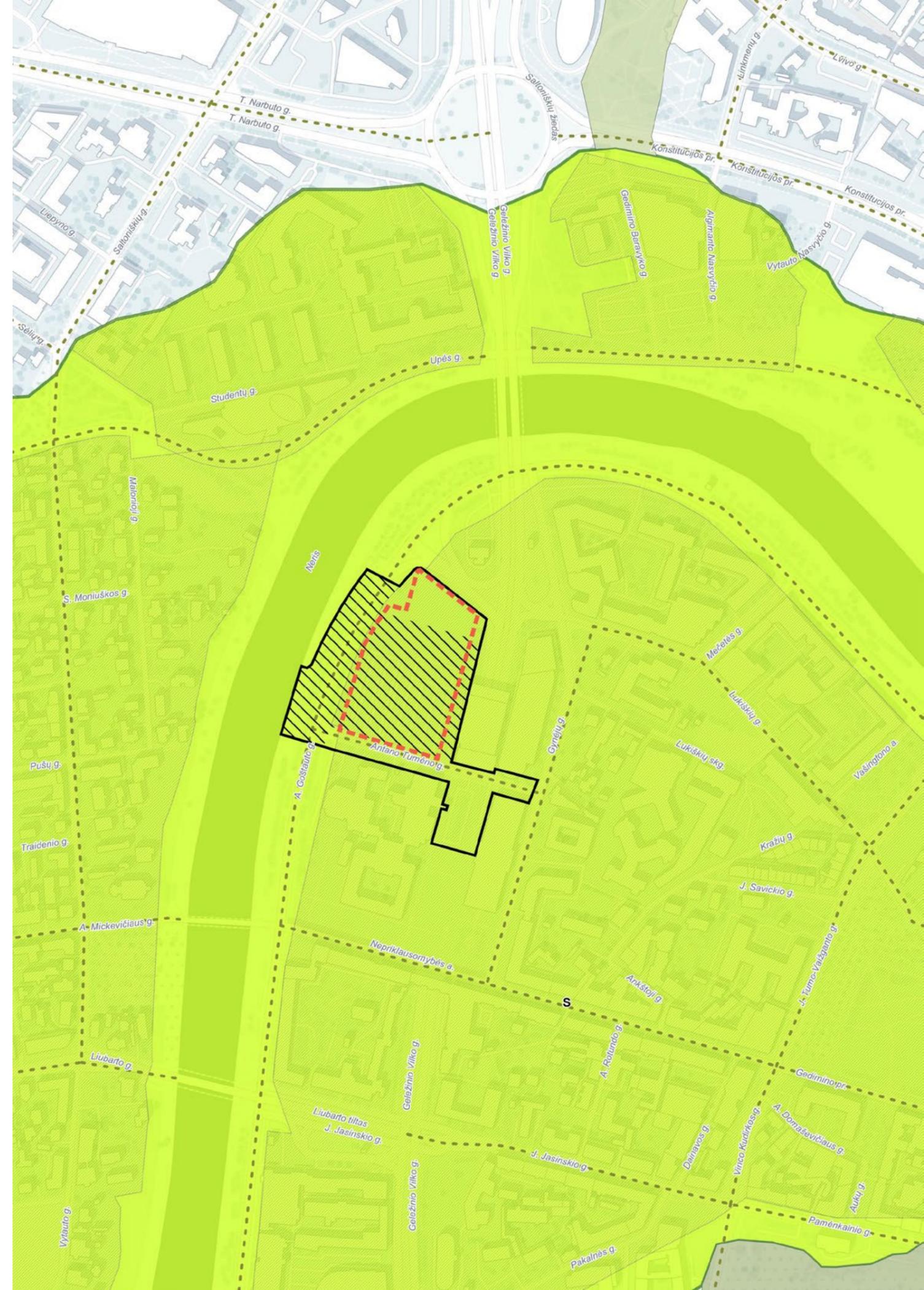
-  Dabartinė sklypo riba
-  Konkurso objektai
-  Pirkimo objektai

Gamtinis karkasas

-  Urbanised parts of the natural framework
-  National migration corridor
-  Micro-regional internal stabilisation area
-  District internal stabilisation area
-  Structural green connections in street corridors

Geological potential of natural framework areas

- S** Severely degraded



1.9 CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE AREA

The competition site contains no registered cultural heritage value.

The competition site falls within the visual protection buffer subzone of the historic part of Vilnius known as Naujamiestis (unique code in the Cultural Heritage Register: 33653) and the Vilnius Senamiestis (unique code in the Cultural Heritage Register: 16073).

Proposed solutions must comply with the following requirements to ensure compatibility of the new building with cultural heritage protection.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

- Registered immovable cultural heritage territories, sites in the Cultural Heritage Register and site territories (of the historic part of Vilnius city known as Naujamiestis (unique code in the Cultural Heritage Register: 33653) and the currently valid statement of the Council for the Evaluation of the Real Cultural Heritage of the historic part of Vilnius City known as Naujamiestis (unique code in the Cultural Heritage Register: 33653) of Vilnius Senamiestis (unique code in the Cultural Heritage Register: 16073).
- The current act of the Council for the Assessment of the Immovable Cultural Heritage of Vilnius City for the Vilnius Senamiestis (unique code in the Cultural Heritage Register – 16073; status – monument).
- Current acts of the Council for the Cultural Heritage Assessment regarding cultural heritage sites, complexes, and structures.
- Law on the Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage (22 December 1994, No. I-733). Participants must adhere to Article 11 (1) of this Law, which stipulates that a cultural heritage site is protected together with the territory it occupies and the area designated for it. This territory is inseparable from the cultural heritage object (paragraph 2). The boundaries of the cultural heritage site's territory and heritage area are based on historical and other research data so that they coincide with the boundaries of land plots (or their parts) that are objects of real rights, or with other boundaries of immovable property, natural or anthropogenic features. Attention is drawn to Article 11 (4) (2) of this Law, which defines the visual protection buffer subzone as land

plots (or their parts) located beyond the heritage site's territory or physical impact protection zone, along with any immovable property situated thereon, to which the requirements of this Law and other legal acts apply, prohibiting activities within this buffer subzone that could obstruct the view of the cultural heritage object.

- Special Protection Plan for Vilnius Senamiestis – Cultural Monument (unique code in the Cultural Heritage Register: 16073, formerly U1P) – Plan of Territory and Protection Zone Boundaries (approved by Order No. IV-512 of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, 18 October 2010).
- Interim Protection Regulation for the World Heritage Site – Cultural Monument U1P – Protection Zone of the Vilnius Historic Centre (Official Gazette, 2005, No. 61-2193). The Regulation governs construction activities within the visual protection zone. The Regulation stipulates that, within the protection zone encompassing the competition site, construction of new structures or reconstruction of existing ones that increase their height or volume is prohibited if, when viewed from Senamiestis streets and squares, main approach routes, or designated viewpoints, such structures would: visually dominate a protected cultural heritage object or group of objects, or natural values – specifically, the hills surrounding Senamiestis – by their height, scale, or expression; obstruct views of the Old Town or a protected cultural heritage object or group within its protection zone; obscure by at least half the height a hill located within Senamiestis or its protection zone; alter the silhouette of Senamiestis; be visible from Senamiestis streets and squares (this requirement does not apply to streets bordering Senamiestis). A planned structure is considered to visually

dominate a protected cultural heritage object or group if, when viewed from designated viewpoints, it: rises above the visible protected cultural heritage object or group; appears in the immediate vicinity of the protected cultural heritage object or group and, by its scale or height, visually competes with or exceeds the protected object or group.

- Provisions of Section I of Chapter V of the Republic of Lithuania Law on Special Conditions for Land Use (adopted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 6 June 2019, No. XIII-2166). Senamiestis in Vilnius has been designated for public recognition and use, while the archaeological site of the Vilnius historic centre and its suburbs is designated for scientific study. Pursuant to Article 60 (3) (2) a), construction of structures that, due to their height, scale, or architectural expression, form, or shape, would visually dominate immovable cultural heritage values or obstruct their visibility is prohibited within the territory, area, and protection zones of cultural heritage objects designated for public recognition and use.

COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS MUST BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING WHEN PROPOSING SOLUTIONS:

- When shaping an optimal urban structure, participants must follow the valuable characteristics of the historic part of Vilnius known as Naujamiestis – specifically, the northern Naujamiestis development environment features: The Lukiškės suburb is characterised by a regular street grid with predominantly perimeter block and square development. In the central part of the suburb, development consists mainly of 3–4-storey masonry residential buildings with attics, styled in Historicism or, less frequently, Modernism, including rental houses where the ground floors are often adapted for commercial use and decorated with rusticated plaster; façade ornamentation on upper floors along the main streets is notably rich

and elaborate (buildings on the corners of perimeter blocks are often accentuated with risalits, bay-windows topped with turrets, and abundant three-dimensional elements such as balconies and portals). Along the alignments of J. Jasinskio, Pamėnkalnio, and A. Goštauto Streets – which bound the Lukiškės suburb from the north, west, and south – post-war Retrospective-style buildings of 4–5 storeys predominate; the corners of perimeter blocks are frequently emphasised with taller risalits or more substantial volumes and tiled roofs.

- It must be ensured that newly planned buildings, in terms of volume, scale, and architectural expression, do not visually dominate these characteristic development features and harmoniously integrate into the surrounding context. Participants must comply with the architectural quality criteria listed in Article 11 of the Law on Architecture of the Republic of Lithuania (adopted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 8 June 2017, No. XIII-425).
- Newly constructed or reconstructed buildings, when viewed from Vilnius Senamiestis streets and squares, main approach roads, and designated viewpoints, must not – by height, scale, or expression – visually dominate protected cultural heritage objects or groups thereof located within the Vilnius Senamiestis or its protection zone, nor natural features such as the hills surrounding Senamiestis; they must ensure an unobstructed view of these objects or groups. Planned buildings, when viewed from Vilnius Senamiestis viewpoints, must not rise above visible protected cultural heritage objects or groups thereof, appear in the immediate vicinity of such objects or groups and visually compete with – or exceed cultural heritage objects in scale or height.
- When planning the site, due consideration must be given to the urban and natural surroundings; existing historical urban elements must not be diminished or overshadowed, and a harmonious relationship

with the surrounding urban context must be maintained. The proposed development – in terms of volume, height, and footprint – must not create dissonance within the historic environment. A thorough urban analysis of the immediate surroundings must be conducted, evaluating the development context.

- It must be ensured that the proposed solutions will not negatively impact the valuable characteristics of the historic part of Vilnius known as Naujamiestis, adjacent protected cultural heritage objects, Vilnius Senamiestis, or the surrounding urban development environment.
- When developing proposals, the preservation of the valuable attributes of cultural heritage assets and the fulfilment of heritage protection objectives must be guaranteed." Vilnius Senamiestis was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1994. Consequently, a retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Vilnius Historic Centre was prepared (approved by Decision 8E of the 37th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the "Statement"). The property listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site exhibits all attributes conveying its Outstanding Universal Value and has retained its integrity and authenticity. In accordance with the Statement's provisions, the visual integrity of the property and its surroundings must be preserved, including visual connections between protected areas, valuable landscapes, panoramas, and silhouettes. It must be ensured that large-scale structures, regardless of location, do not adversely affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, or integrity.
- From a heritage conservation perspective, the competition site is significant in views from Gediminas Hill, Bokšto Hill, Subačiaus Viewing Platform, Tauras Hill panorama, and when descending along Ukmergės Street.

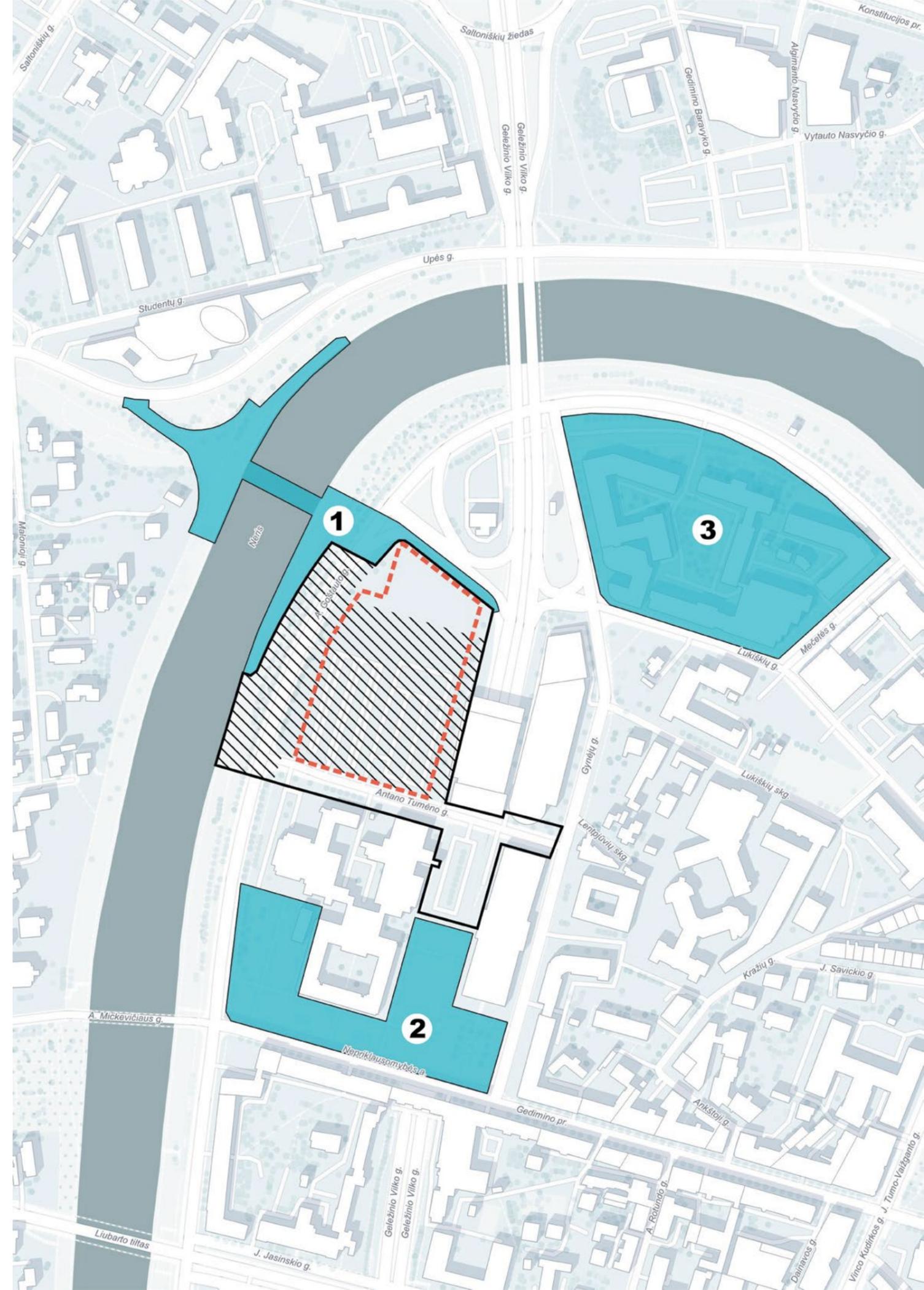
1.10 SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Numerous projects are either planned or already underway around the competition site, which will renew and enliven the area. The most impactful initiatives will enhance environmental quality and safety and significantly increase foot traffic to the area – and potentially to the congress centre itself – including:

1. Albertas Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge;
2. The Nepriklausomybės Square redevelopment project;
3. Conversion of the A. Goštauto quarter.

-  Current plot boundary
-  Competition objects
-  Procurement objects
-  Important adjacent projects

- 1** Albertas pedestrian and cycle bridge
- 2** Reconstruction of Nepriklausomybės Square
- 3** A. Goštauto Quarter

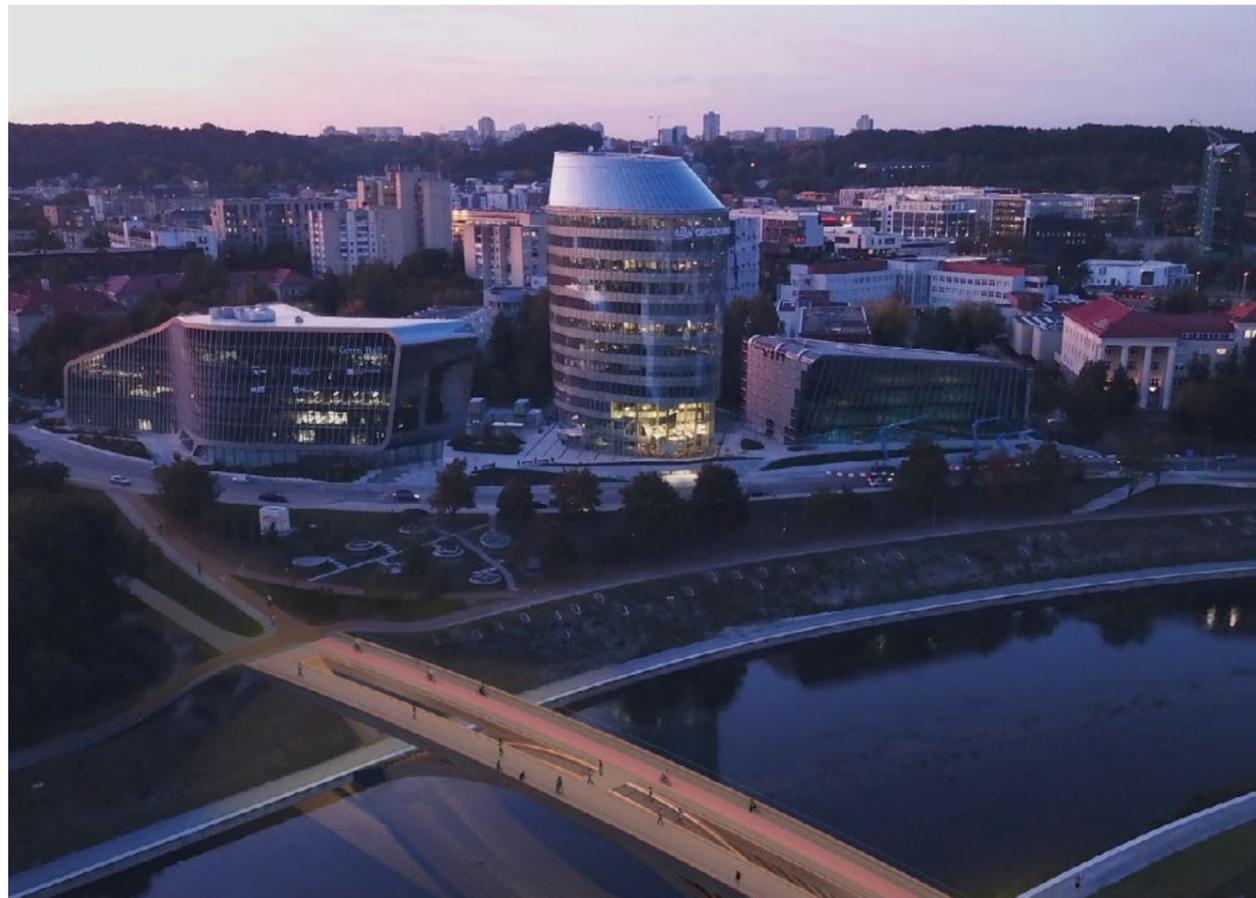


1.10.1 ALBERTAS BRIDGE

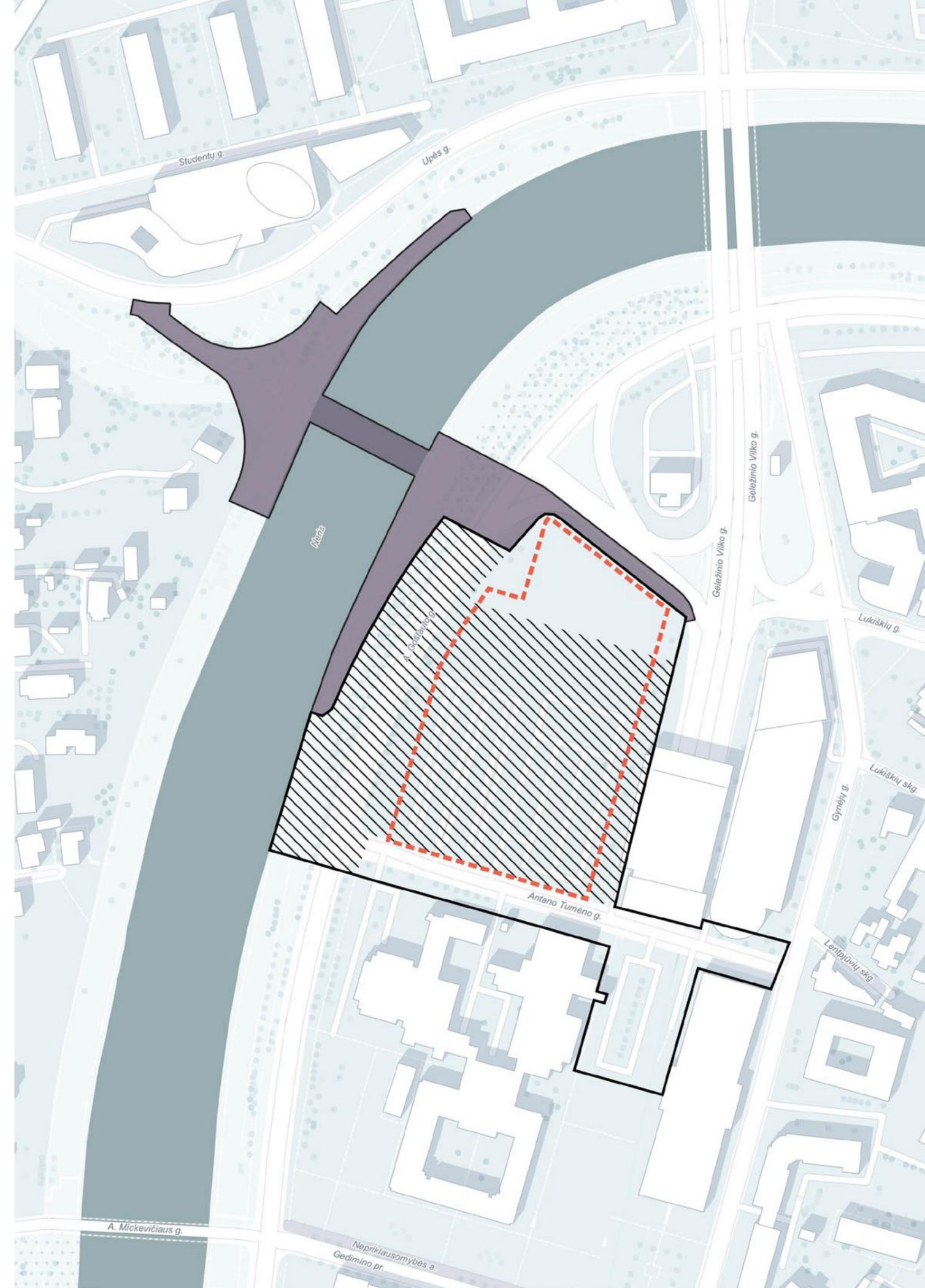
A wooden arch pedestrian bridge called Albertas Bridge is planned across the Neris River, connecting A. Goštauto Street with Upės Street. This bridge will serve as a vital link between the Žvėrynas and Lukiškės districts. The pedestrian bridge design will connect both banks of the Neris River at two terrace levels. On the western side, Albertas Bridge will continue the existing cycle path alignment; on the eastern side, it will integrate into a network of intersections extending the pedestrian route and merging with cycle paths toward the city centre.

A construction permit for the Albertas Bridge project has already been issued.

-  Current plot boundary
-  Competition objects
-  Procurement objects
-  Albertas pedestrian and cycle bridge



Source: Project title: Pedestrian Bridge across the Neris River from A. Goštauto Street to Upės Street in Vilnius. INHUS Engineering



1.10.2 RECONSTRUCTION OF NEPRIKLAUSOMYBĖS SQUARE

By 2027, the Seimas Chancellery plans to implement the Redevelopment Project of Nepriklausomybės Square, encompassing the square, fountain, and adjacent complex. The project aims to create an attractive public space for the community and a prestigious venue for official events.



Source: Vilnius.lt

1.10.3 CONVERSION OF THE GOŠTAUTO QUARTER

The A. Goštauto quarter renewal project envisages transforming the complex of buildings between A. Goštauto and Lukiškių Streets into a modern administrative centre. The aim is to harmonise historical cultural layers with contemporary architecture, retain 1960s-era buildings, complement them with modern design solutions, and create a climate-responsive, 24/7 active urban environment. The quarter's spaces will be opened to the public: pedestrian avenues, squares, small parks, and publicly accessible functions integrated into ground floors will ensure a vibrant territory.



Source: turtas.lt, Conversion of the A. Goštauto Quarter

2. DESIGN BRIEF

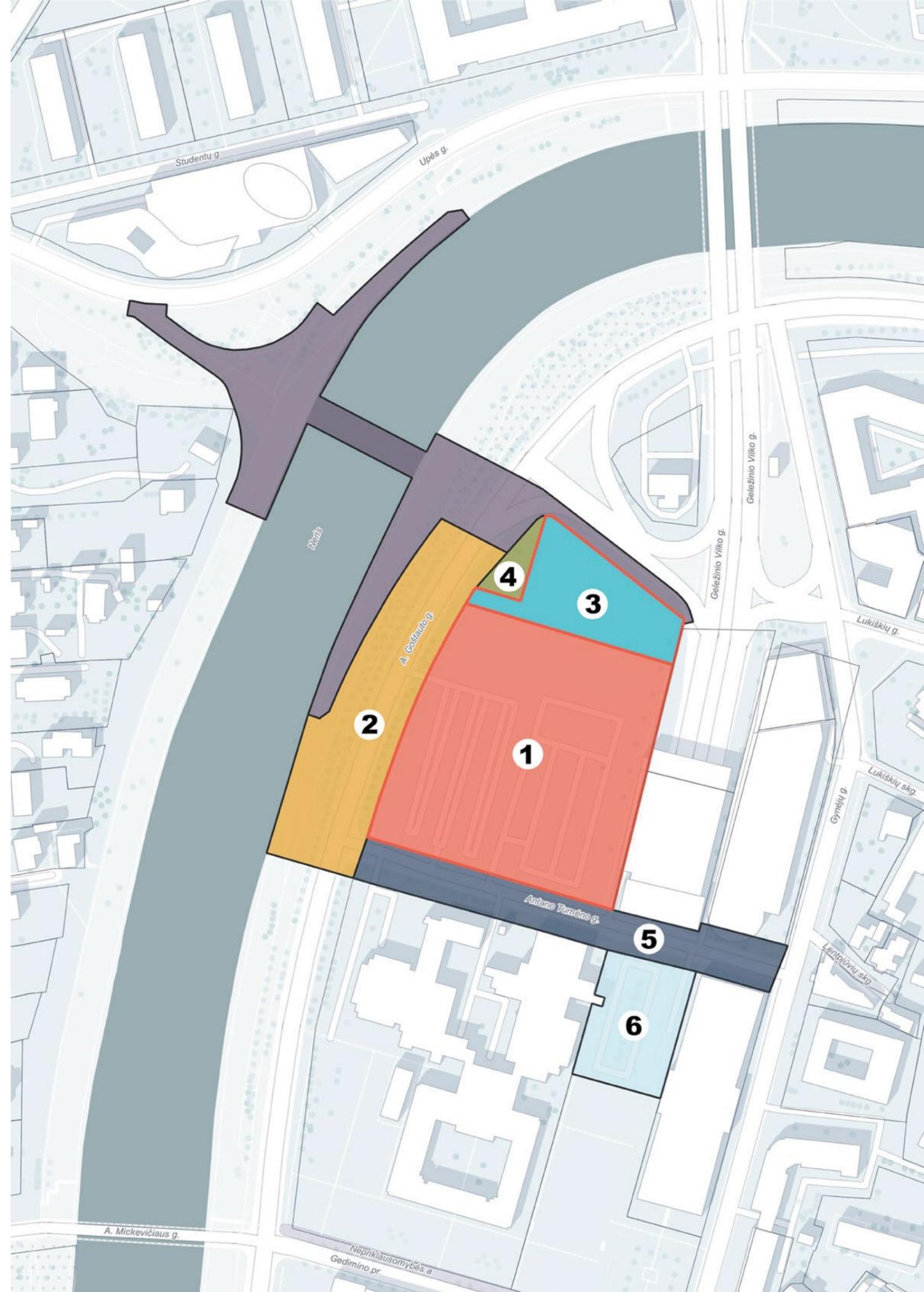
2.1 OBJECT OF THE COMPETITION

Proposal for an architectural concept design for the new Vilnius Congress Centre and its surrounding environment, including access routes.

The competition site comprises six zones:

1. Vilnius Congress Centre with access areas (area: 18,980.99 sq. m)
2. Segments of A. Goštauto Street and Neris embankment (9,282.36 sq. m)
3. Prospective hotel location (area: 4,283.66 sq. m)
4. A. Sakalauskas Square (area: 704.49 sq. m)
5. Segment of A. Tumėno Street (area: 5,749.22 sq. m)
6. Area between the Seimas Palace of the Republic of Lithuania and M. Mažvydas Library (area: 3,693.16 sq. m)

- Planned plot boundaries within the competition site
- Plot boundaries
- Vilnius Congress Centre with access routes
- A. Goštauto St. and Neris riverside sections
- Prospective hotel site
- A. Sakalauskas Square
- A. Tumėno St. section
- Area between the Lithuanian Parliament and M. Mažvydas Library
- Albertas pedestrian and cycle bridge



2.2 LEVELS OF DETAIL

LEVEL OF DETAIL I

The area includes the new Vilnius Congress Centre and associated public spaces (1), and the segment of A. Goštauto Street between A. Tumėno Street and the Albertas Bridge project intervention zone, as well as the Neris embankment segment. (2).

Requirements: highly detailed architectural and public space solutions are required:

- Present detailed artistic and functional solutions for the Vilnius Congress Centre.
- Present detailed functional layouts for public spaces and the building's logistics zone.
- Present specific integration solutions linking the northern public space with the Albertas Bridge project.
- Graphically and visually illustrate and specify human-scale interventions for A. Goštauto Street, proposals for enhancing the Neris embankment public spaces, and integrate these with landscaping and spatial design strategies for the embankment. (2).

LEVEL OF DETAIL II

The area includes the prospective hotel site (3).

Requirements: moderately detailed graphic solutions are required:

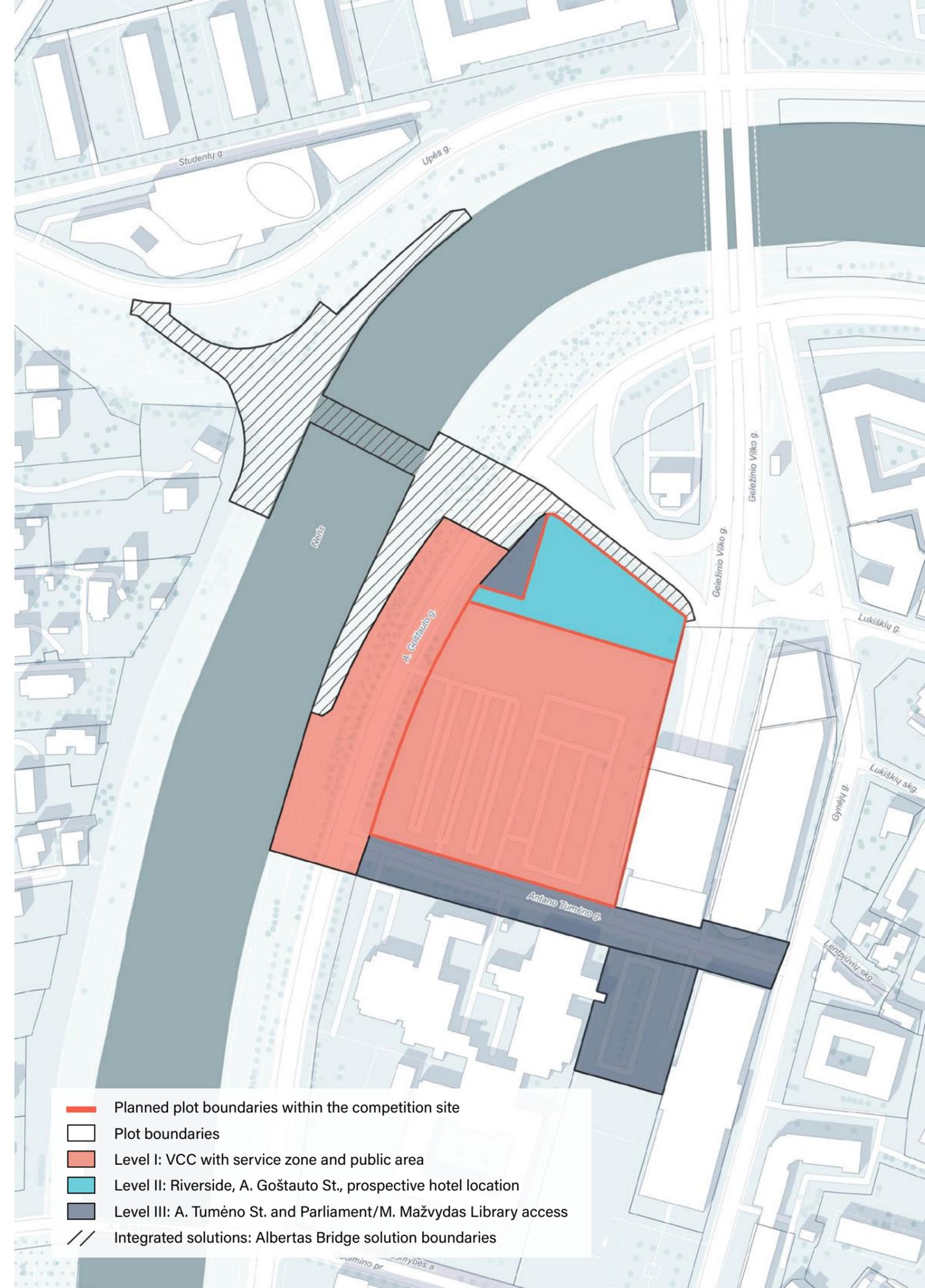
- Graphically and visually present non-detailed but spatially coherent urban design proposals for the VCC expansion zone – suggesting a prospective development building for the future hotel. (3).

LEVEL OF DETAIL III

The area includes the memorial stone dedicated to the fallen soldier A. Sakalauskas (4), the segment of A. Tumėno Street between A. Goštauto and Gynėjų Streets (5), and the portion of Nepriklausomybės Square between the Seimas Palace and M. Mažvydas Library. (6).

Requirements: General graphic proposals for public space and street design, along with connections to surrounding areas, are required:

- Present conceptual design proposals for A. Sakalauskas Square (4).
- Present access solutions for the VCC along the A. Tumėno Street segment and in the area between the Seimas Palace and M. Mažvydas Library (5, 6).



- Planned plot boundaries within the competition site
- Plot boundaries
- Level I: VCC with service zone and public area
- Level II: Riverside, A. Goštauto St., prospective hotel location
- Level III: A. Tumėno St. and Parliament/M. Mažvydas Library access
- /// Integrated solutions: Albertas Bridge solution boundaries

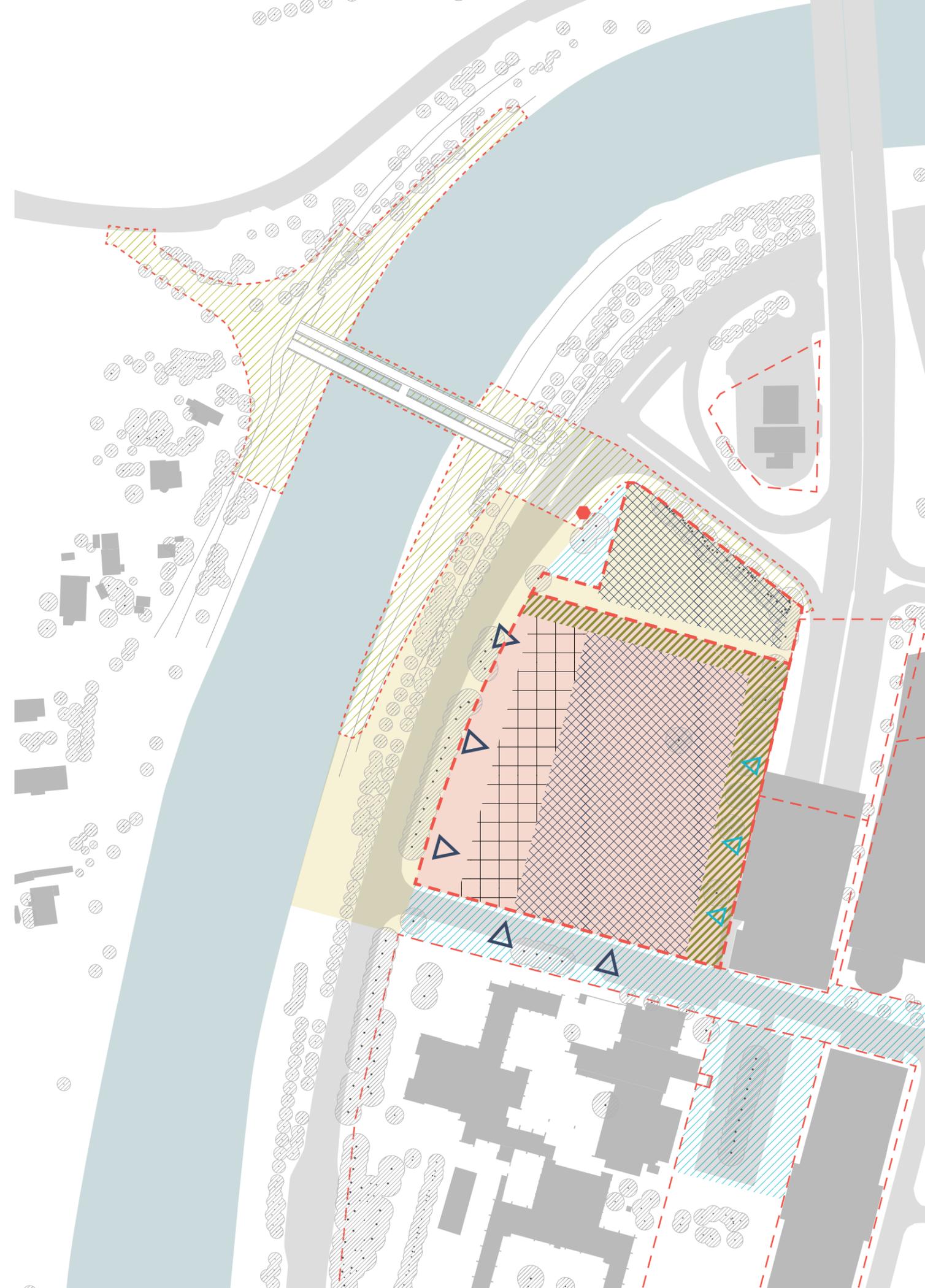
2.3 SITE DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

The competition area consists of the congress centre plot, sections of the Neris riverbank, segments of Goštauto Street, Tumėno Street with access routes to the Seimas Palace/M. Mažvydas Library. These areas will be examined at varying levels of detail within the competition.

The future VCC plot will occupy 2.13 ha; currently, it contains no structures and is used as a car park. The total competition site area is approximately 4.3 ha.

The western edge of the plot opens onto A. Goštauto Street, the Neris riverbank, and the river itself, offering views toward the Žvėrynas district and Karoliniškės forest. This edge should be developed as the main, public-facing side of the congress centre, featuring the main entrances, a high-quality public space, and attractive, safe access to the river. It is essential to allocate space for a high-quality open area; adherence to the Seimas Palace development alignment line is recommended. The main building volume should be set back from A. Goštauto Street to ensure the new structure does not overshadow the protected cultural heritage asset (the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania Building), other buildings, or the Nepriklausomybės Square complex (KVR [cultural heritage value] code 16080).

-  Land parcel
-  Other adjacent parcels
-  Albertas Bridge solution boundaries
-  VCC building footprint zone (dominant volume)
-  VCC building footprint zone (non-dominant volume)
-  Other-purpose building footprint zone
-  Easement zone
-  Designed VCC area
-  Proposed conceptual solutions
-  Proposed environmental vision
-  Public-facing side and VCC accesses
-  Technical and logistical side and VCC access
-  Monument



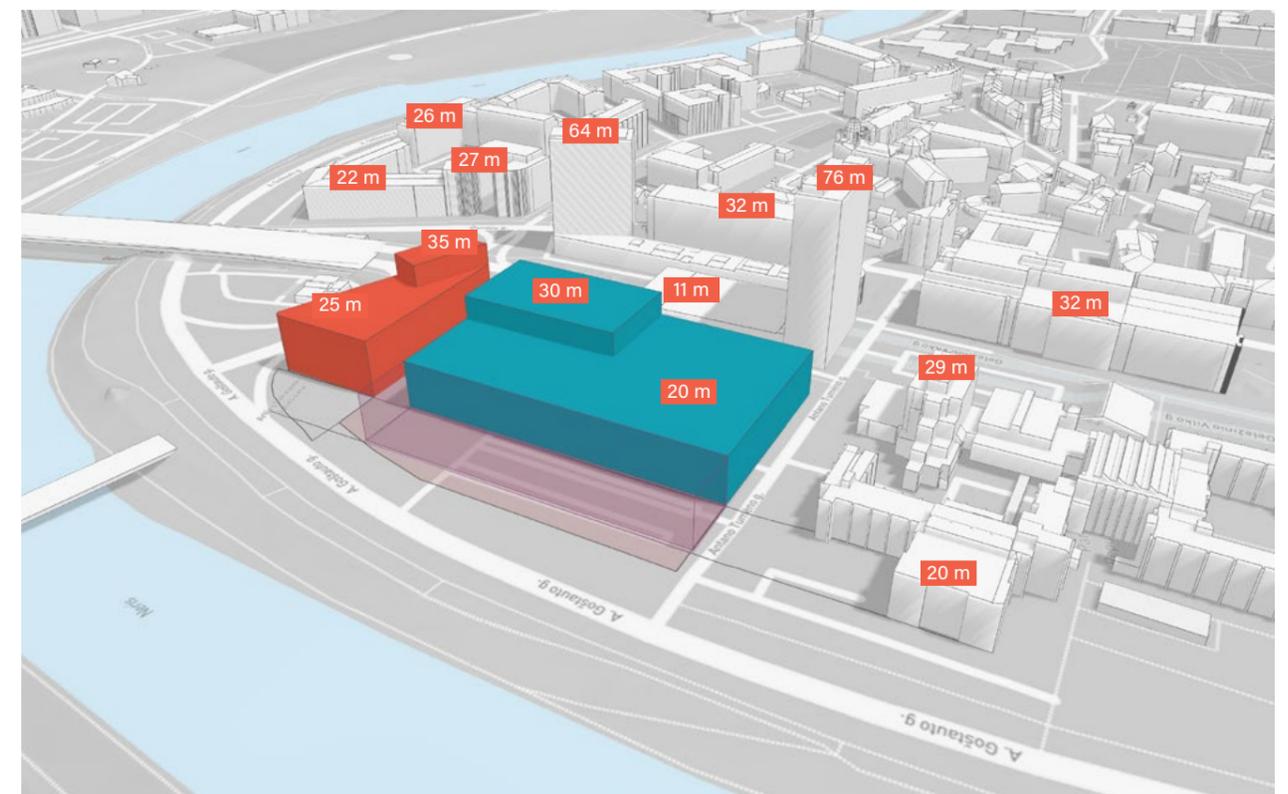
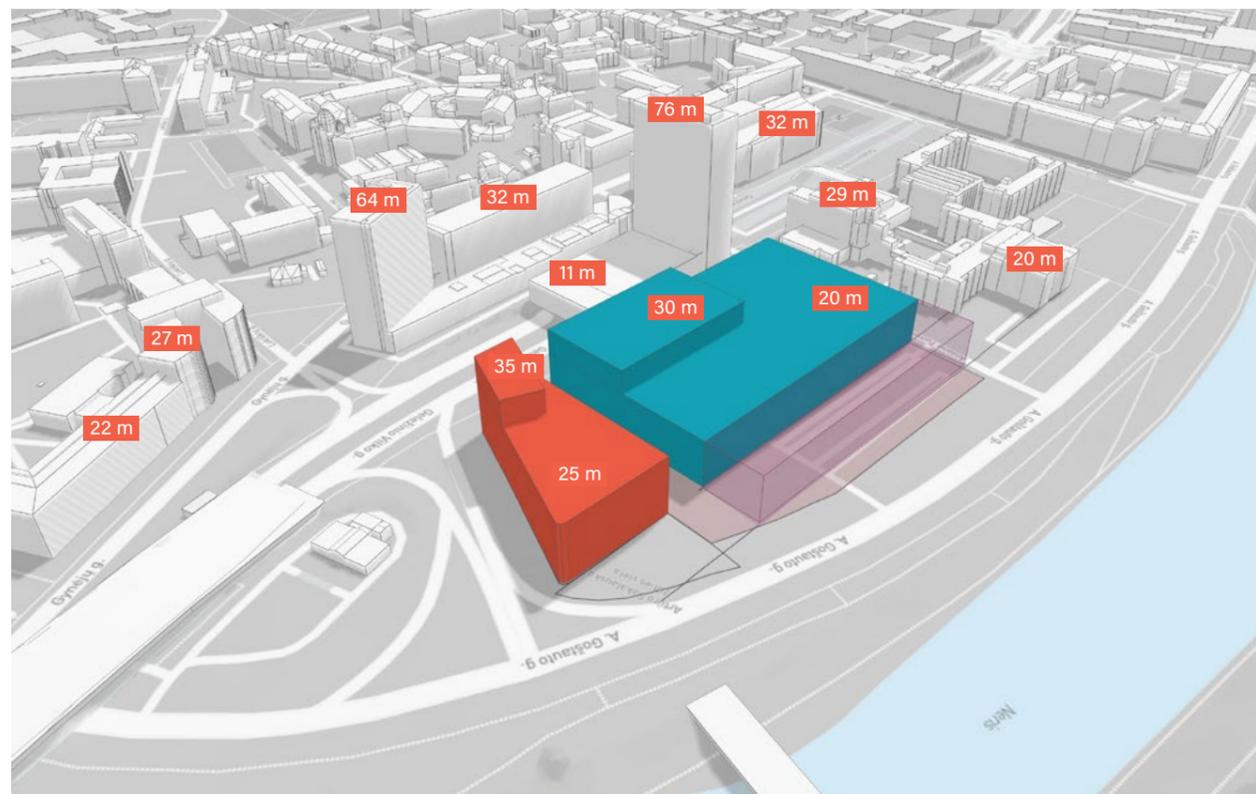
To the south of the plot lie A. Tumėno Street and the Seimas Palace. This side of the building will be highly visible and will serve as the primary arrival point for pedestrians coming from Gediminas Avenue. It is therefore logical to allocate this space there for short-term drop-off/pick-up zones and designated areas for on-demand shuttle buses and passenger disembarkation.

To the east of the plot are the Geležinio Vilko Street tunnel, a multi-storey parking structure above it, and an administrative building. This edge of the plot is suitable for technical and logistical infrastructure.

The northern part of the plot is reserved for a hotel; beyond it lies a transport hub with a petrol station. Northwest of the VCC plot is a memorial space and the under-construction new Albertas pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Neris. Public space solutions

must seamlessly connect with the bridge infrastructure, ensuring continuous pedestrian and cyclist circulation and material continuity. A through-traffic corridor is planned between the proposed ancillary building and the VCC. This crossing axis should be designed as an attractive public space integrating an infrastructure corridor, clearly indicating movement priorities and ensuring safety for all user flows.

To the south of the site lies a cultural heritage asset: the complex comprising the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania Building, other structures, and Nepriklausomybės Square. The competition development zone is divided into two parts: in the eastern portion, the main volume of the VCC should be concentrated, while the western portion should avoid perimeter enclosure and instead develop a permeable volumetric composition with integrated spaces that do not visually dominate the protected cultural heritage object.



2.3.1 BUILDING HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS

Competition participants are requested to adhere to the spatial development constraints provided, which complement the site's planning requirements.

Taking into account the surrounding developed environment and the cultural heritage asset located in the southern part of the plot, the following height principles are established:

- The predominant height of the Vilnius Congress Centre (VCC) building should not exceed 20 metres, and its highest point must not rise above 30 metres. This highest point must be set back from both A. Goštauto Street and A. Tumėno Street.
- The predominant height of the hotel's volume may reach up to 25 metres.
- The hotel's highest element, which may only be positioned adjacent to Geležinio Vilko Street, must not exceed 35 metres.
- The maximum permitted building height may apply to no more than 20 % of the total developed area, in accordance with the Vilnius City General Plan provisions.

2.3.2 ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER WHICH THE PROJECT MAY BE REJECTED

- **Autonomy of solutions:** The proposed solutions in the areas of the planned plot assigned to the Vilnius Conference Centre (VCC) program and the Hotel program should not be interconnected by any functional, structural, or engineering links. The buildings and infrastructure of each program must be completely independent. The only shared element permitted is the access road.
- **Location of the Vilnius Conference Centre:** The Conference Centre building must strictly fit entirely within the boundaries of the planned VCC plot. This requirement is very strict and should not be violated.

2.4 PROCUREMENT (COMPETITION) OBJECTS

1. Design solutions for VCC and its access arrangements.
2. The embankment, including the segment of A. Goštauto Street.

Other proposed solutions are not part of the procurement scope and will not be evaluated; however, they should illustrate the context that, in the authors' view, best complements the proposed procurement solutions.



- Planned plot boundaries within the competition site
- Plot boundaries
- The procurement object
- ▨ Not the procurement object

2.5 URBAN DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

2.5.1 INTEGRATION INTO THE URBAN FABRIC

The proposed urban structure must seamlessly integrate into the Naujamiestis urban fabric, respecting its scale, perimeter block logic, and spatial hierarchy. It is essential to sensitively shape the spatial relationship with the prestigious environment of the Seimas Palace of the Republic of Lithuania and adjacent buildings of national significance, avoiding visual competition and ensuring contextual harmony.

2.5.2 DEVELOPMENT LOGIC AND VISUAL JUSTIFICATION

Background development should be harmonised with accentuated compositions to establish a clear hierarchy between public spaces and developed volumes. Proposals must integrate into the Naujamiestis skyline.

2.5.3 HEIGHT AND SCALE

Developed heights should respect a human scale, considering the structure of surrounding volumes and panoramic views. From a heritage conservation perspective, structures on the competition site will be visible and must harmoniously integrate into the townscape when viewed from Gediminas Hill, Bokšto Hill, the Subačiaus viewing platform, and the Taurus Hill panorama. Transitions in height must be handled consistently to avoid abrupt, dominant elements incompatible with the Naujamiestis silhouette and to ensure compliance with the General Plan's allowance for maximum height (up to 20 % of the proposed project's building footprint).

2.5.4 MOVEMENT AND NETWORKS

The new building must integrate into the existing street network to ensure convenient vehicular access, efficient service logistics, and clear separation of pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicular flows. Proposed solutions must take into account the intensity of the city centre, guaranteeing smooth everyday circulation as well as accommodating projected event-related flows.

2.5.5 PUBLIC SPACES AND RESPECT FOR HISTORICAL MEMORY

The new public spaces must be harmonised with the memorial site dedicated to Artūras Sakalauskas, preserving a respectful character and appropriate spatial tone. At the same time, synergy with the Neris embankment should be pursued, strengthening visual and functional connections and creating an attractive, open riverfront access point.

2.5.6 VISUAL JUSTIFICATION

All proposals must align with the Naujamiestis skyline, street alignments, and building frontages. Clear visual and analytical documentation must be provided, demonstrating how the proposed solutions integrate into the townscape and contribute to the quality of public spaces.

2.6 ARCHITECTURAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Compliance with Legal Acts** Proposed solutions must meet the architectural quality criteria defined in the Republic of Lithuania Law on Architecture and comply with all applicable Lithuanian laws on spatial planning and construction, technical regulations, and other relevant legal acts.
- **Architectural Identity** The building must be distinctive yet respectful of its surroundings, embodying contemporary, sustainable architecture.
- **Spatial Flexibility and Functionality** Proposed solutions must ensure maximum flexibility and functionality of interior spaces: acoustic performance, adaptable flow management, and the ability to easily reconfigure spaces are among the most key quality indicators for a congress centre.
- **Separation of Flows** The building's service zone system must be well integrated, efficient, and operate independently from the visitor circulation system.
- **Universal Design** The building must be safe, easily navigable, and accessible to all users.
- **Connection Between the Interior and Exterior** Solutions must ensure optimal integration between the interior and exterior environments, both physically and visually.
- **Material Quality** High-quality, durable materials shall be used.
- **Engineering Systems and Utilities** The building's systems should meet the highest standards required for a modern and future-oriented congress centre and be fully integrated within the building envelope.

2.7 SITE USERS

The congress centre will serve two distinct user groups: 1) Building staff and service personnel (internal and external); 2) Visitors. These groups will use the facility at different times and have differing needs.

USERS BY GROUPS

Building staff and service personnel:

- VCC employees;
- Technical maintenance providers;
- International and local event organisers;
- Technical and scenographic event production teams;

- Caterers;
- Sponsor and exhibition teams;
- Security personnel;
- Performers, speakers, interpreters.

Visitors:

- Event delegates and attendees;
- Patrons of bars, restaurants, and cafés;
- Journalists and other media professionals;
- VIPs.

2.8 ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

The Client aims to achieve a sustainability certification no lower than BREEAM International New Construction Excellent or an equivalent rating.

The building shall be designed so that at least 50 % of the timber and other organic materials used in the construction originate from renewable natural resources.

2.9 INTEGRATION INTO THE PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

- Ensure integration of design solutions with those of the Albertas Bridge.
- Ensure integration of design solutions with Nepriklausomybės Square.
- Ensure integration of design solutions with the Neris riverbank.
- Ensure continuity of public spaces.

2.10 VEHICLE PARKING

Design no more than two underground parking levels and, where feasible, provide surface-level parking (or drop-off) areas for service and technical vehicles on non-public-facing façades of the building. Visitor and administrative parking may be located in the underground parking facility.

Designers are responsible for determining the appropriate number of parking spaces (including accessible parking spaces) based on their proposed architectural concept. Comply with the current version of STR 2.06.04:2014 and the Vilnius City Municipality zoning scheme defining parking space coefficients.

Where possible, allocate dedicated parking areas for staff and service personnel with convenient access to administrative and service areas. Provide above-ground parking spaces for security and delegation vehicles with drivers (including access to sanitary facilities).

Allocate spaces for media broadcast buses with connections to necessary utility networks and access to sanitary facilities, etc.

On the southern side (parallel to A. Tumėno Street), temporary drop-off/pick-up areas for on-demand shuttles and other transport may be provided.

Include designated bicycle and personal micromobility parking areas. Designate zones for shared micromobility platforms (bicycles, scooters, etc.).

Provide temporary passenger drop-off/pick-up areas to accommodate potential surges in visitor arrivals via ride-hailing services.

Ensure smooth, barrier-free parking access for persons with disabilities, offering the shortest possible route to the building and public spaces.

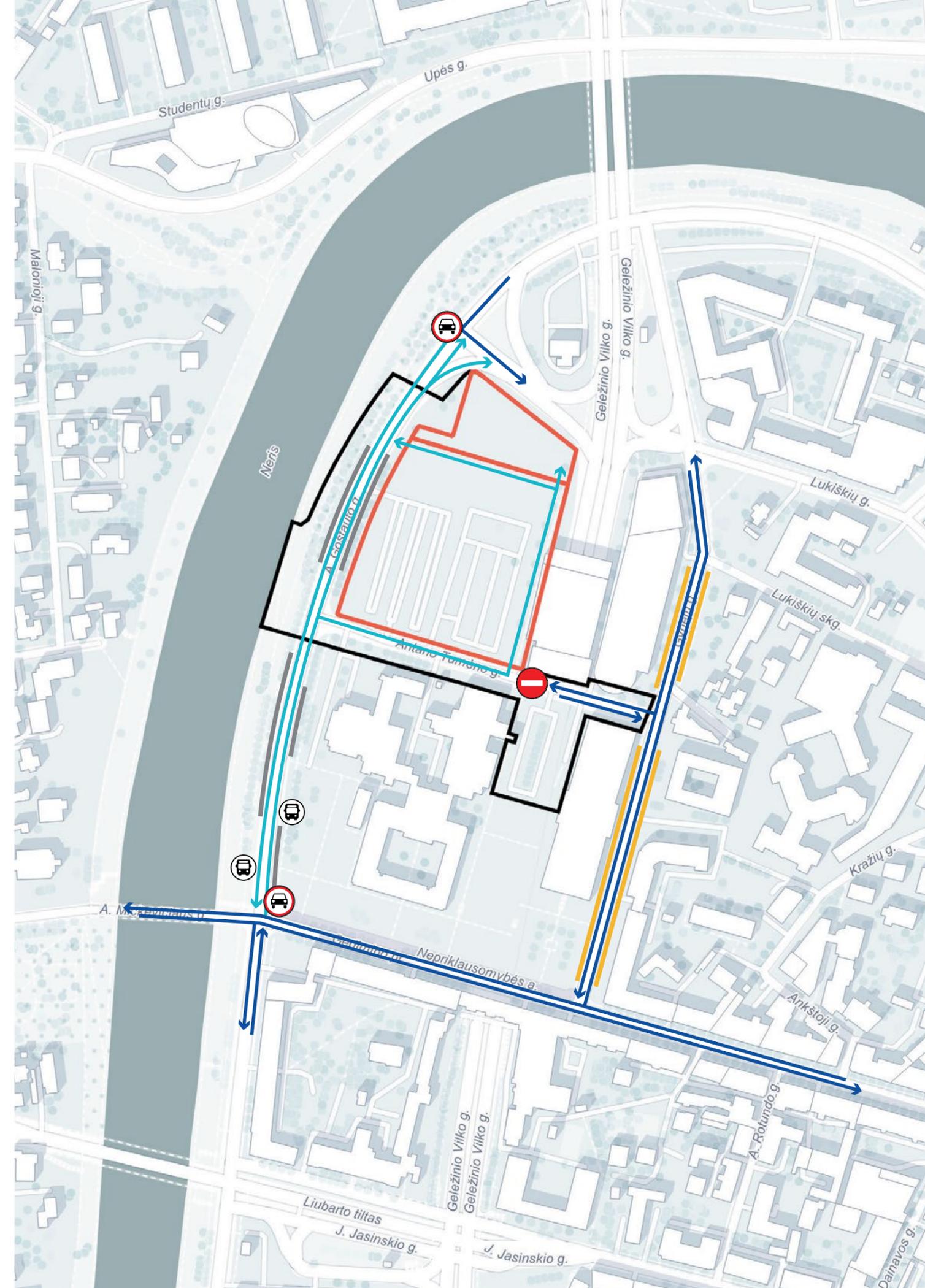
2.11 INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING TRANSPORT NETWORK

- Provide two public transport stops (one per direction).
- Allow for temporary traffic restrictions near the conference centre during conferences and major events.
- Allocate stations for shared micromobility services.
- Ensure continuity of streets, cycle paths, and pedestrian routes.

2.12 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT DURING MAJOR EVENTS

During large-scale events, traffic will be restricted on A. Goštauto Street between Žvėrynas Bridge and the access road leading toward Geležinio Vilko Street on the northern edge of the VCC plot. The restricted section will remain accessible to public and special transport, as well as event participants, organisers, and service vehicles. Access to the underground car park may be directed via A. Tumėno Street. Buses transporting large groups of participants will be temporarily parked in the first lane of A. Goštauto Street within the restricted section. Short-term stopping and passenger drop-off/pick-up will be organised on Gynėjų Street.

- Planned plot boundaries within the competition site
- ▭ Competition objects
- ➡ Unrestricted movement area
- ➡ Restricted movement area
- Bus and vehicle stopping and waiting area
- Short-term stopping spaces for passenger drop-off and pick-up
- 🚌 Existing public transport stop
- 🚫 301 No entry
- 🚫 303 Motor vehicle traffic prohibited

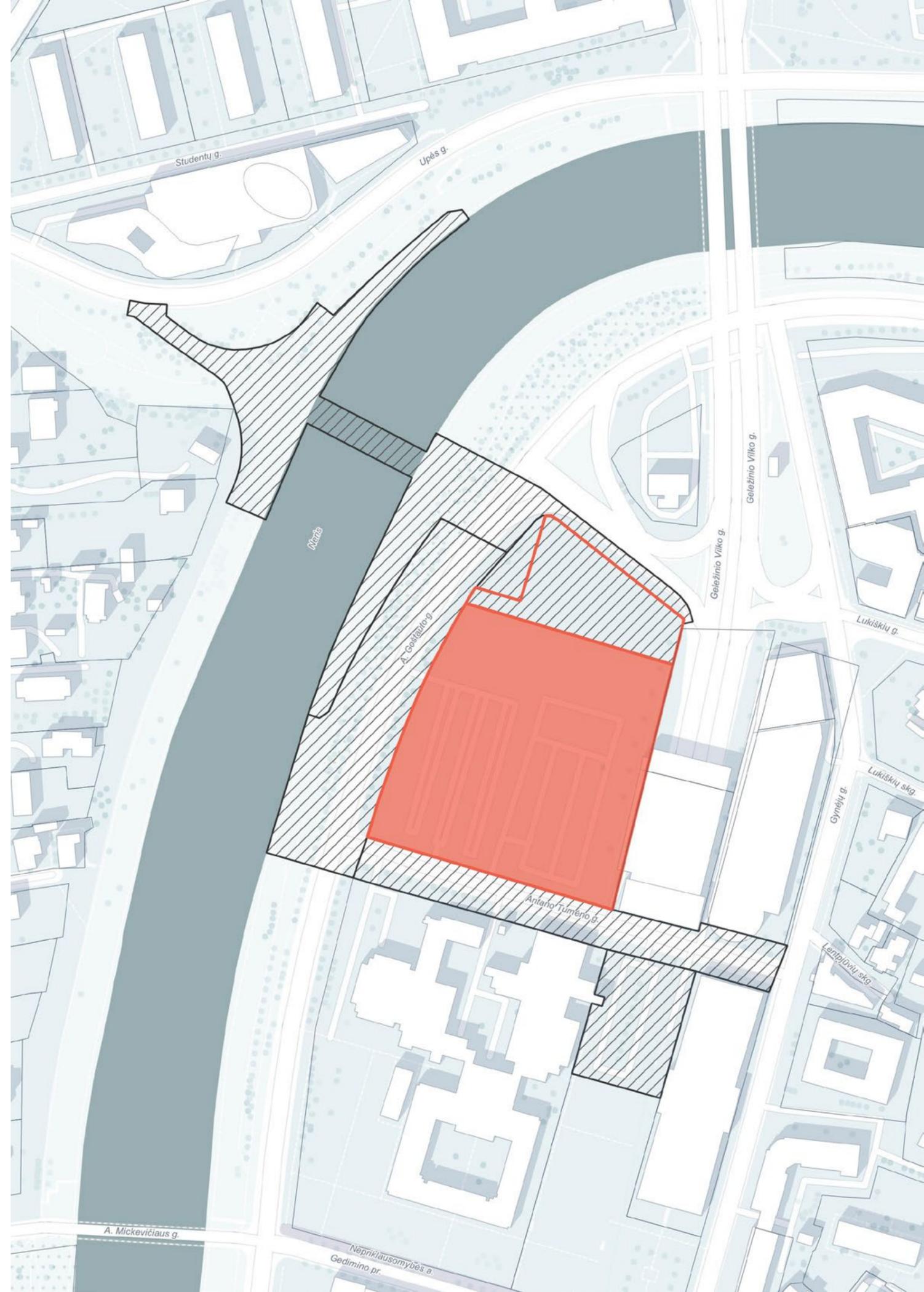


2.13 INTEGRATION OF ARTWORKS INTO COMPETITION SOLUTIONS

Participants are requested to propose several preliminary locations within the site and public spaces suitable for integrating large-scale and iconic artworks. A separate competition for the creation and/or acquisition of such artworks will be organised independently of this architectural competition. In accordance with Article 13 (7) (8) of the Law on Architecture, funding will be allocated for the creation (or acquisition) of artworks.

2.14 REQUIREMENTS BY COMPETITION OBJECT

2.14.1 VILNIUS CONGRESS CENTRE WITH ACCESS AREAS





2.14.1.1 FUNCTIONAL LINKS

The core of the Vilnius Congress Centre (VCC) comprises the main and smaller halls and the event foyer. Primary circulation routes and the event programme are organised around these spaces. The key quality is spatial flexibility: the ability to configure spaces for events of varying scales and types, and to combine them into independently operating functional blocks (e.g. a main hall with several smaller halls, meeting rooms, and necessary ancillary spaces), enabling multiple independent events to be accommodated simultaneously. Such an arrangement clearly separates participant flows and ensures smooth operation of each event. The halls and the foyer should be designed column-free, with high ceilings, divisible by mobile acoustic partitions, and equipped with flexible entrance configurations – making the spaces more universal and simplifying logistics and flow management.

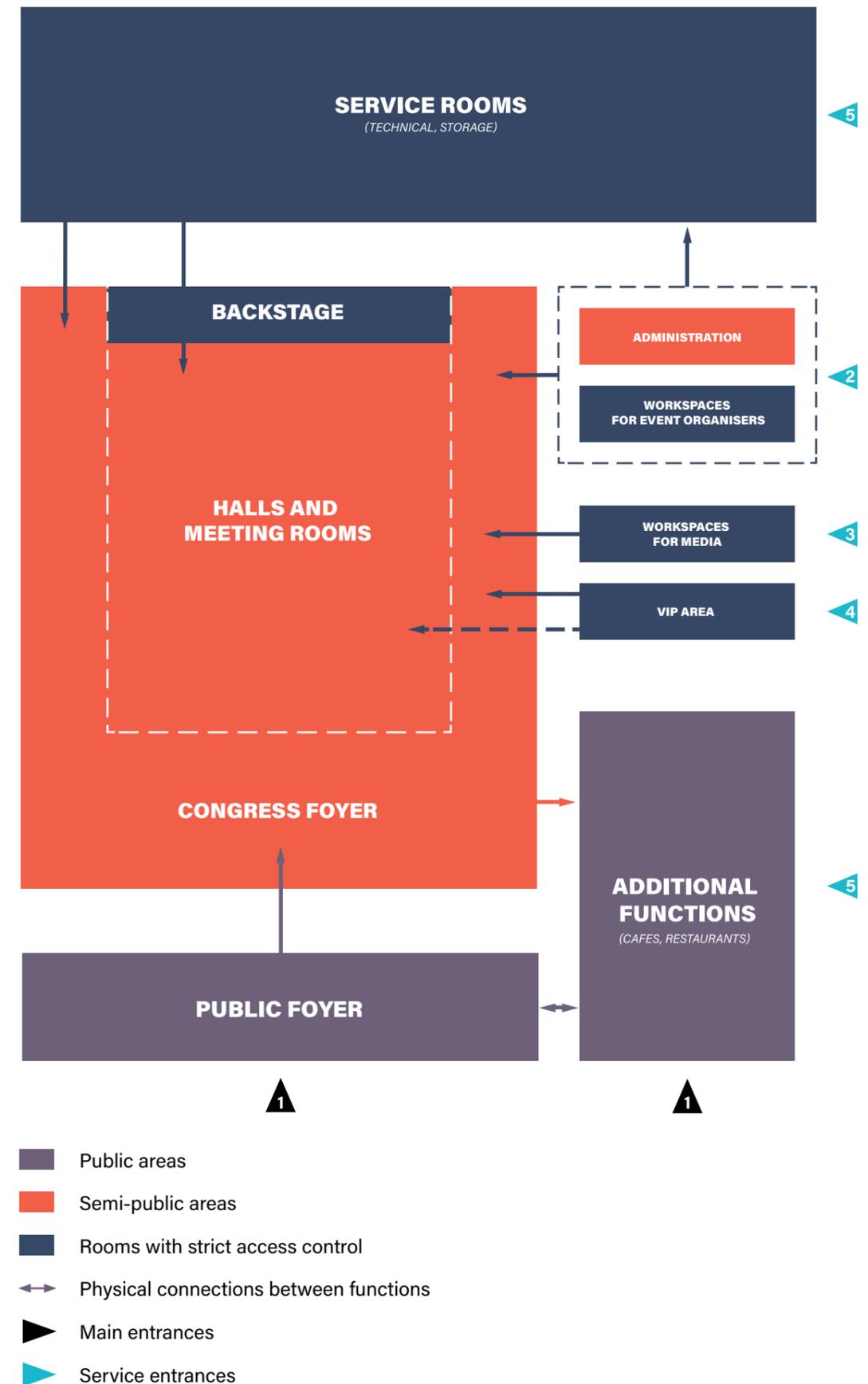
The main spaces are supported by ancillary and service blocks, arranged to operate autonomously while maintaining convenient internal connections. Access to storage, kitchen, technical, and logistics zones must be provided directly from the exterior for both staff and cargo handlers of various scales, with designated unloading areas. Direct access points (gates or wide doors appropriately scaled to the space) from these zones into the halls, exhibition areas, and catering zones within the foyer must be planned. Logistical corridors must be fully separated from visitor flows – remaining invisible, undisturbed, and fully operational even during events. Backstage areas adjacent to the main halls must accommodate movement of props and personnel from support zones. If halls and technical spaces span multiple levels, spacious service lifts should be provided.

The workspace block includes administrative offices, flexible temporary workstations for event organisers, and other staff areas. Separate

external entrances (or shared access via a distribution area) should be located away from the main visitor entrance, while ensuring direct connections to the event foyer and service zones (technical and storage areas). Journalist workspaces may be accessed via the same or a separate entrance, or through the public foyer; this block requires strong connectivity to the event foyer. The VIP zone must be designed according to privacy and security requirements: a dedicated covered drop-off for private vehicles is recommended, with clear, convenient links to press conference rooms, the main hall, and the event foyer. Provision should be made to isolate a portion of the event foyer for exclusive VIP access to larger halls.

The public part of the foyer, located before the registration area, functions as a distribution area for arriving visitors: it should offer convenient facilities for leaving coats and personal belongings. A wide foyer frontage is valuable to accommodate sufficient registration and entry points and ensure high visitor throughput. A convenient location for a coffee and snack bar with a retail zone (convenience stop) and seating should be provided. Efficient vertical circulation to the upper-level bar-restaurant must be ensured, maintaining public foodservice accessibility even when the foyer is subdivided for concurrent events.

The upper-level bar-restaurant with panoramic terrace serves a dual function. On regular days, it operates as a public city space for residents and guests, suitable for private celebrations; during congresses, it can be adapted for gala dinners or networking events. The expansive outdoor terrace, with abundant natural light, and sweeping views of Vilnius create a ceremonial atmosphere that enhances the VCC's capabilities and enriches event programming.



PUBLICITY

All building spaces are categorised into three levels based on access control: public, semi-public, and strictly controlled areas.

Public spaces During operating hours, these are freely accessible to all: the public foyer with information desk, sanitary facilities, coffee and snack bar, retail point, and the bar-restaurant with panoramic terrace (except when reserved for private events or gala dinners). These spaces function as a distribution zone and, when needed, can be incorporated into the event programme together with the adjacent outdoor public area.

Semi-public spaces Accessible to registered participants: halls and meeting rooms, the event foyer with exhibition areas, coffee and meal-break zones, lounges, networking areas, and other amenities for participant comfort. This level includes the administrative reception, where visitors are greeted by staff and directed further.

Strictly controlled spaces Access requires authorisation or invitation. Each zone at this level has individually defined access, security, and privacy requirements. This category includes **ancillary** and **service** areas:

- Ancillary: VIP areas, administrative work zones, temporary workstations for organiser teams, and journalist workspaces.
- Service: technical zones, storage areas, unloading spaces, kitchen, security post, staff facilities, etc.

ACCESS/ENTRANCE

Compliance with fire safety and other mandatory requirements is required.

- 1. Public entrance** Multiple entrances should be provided, with the ability to open widely onto public space. Smooth visitor exit, clear separation between different events, and appropriate signage must be ensured. Visitors are welcomed by an information desk, and during events, by a registration counter.
- 2. Administrative entrance** A dedicated entrance for permanent staff, business centre guests, and (as needed) event organisers accessing temporary workstations. Access control via key/lock system and/or staff reception is applied.
- 3. Journalist entrance** Direct access from the exterior and/or via the public foyer. An accreditation desk is located at the entrance. Further from the VIP area.
- 4. VIP area** Located away from main flows, less visible, with a covered drop-off for private vehicles. Staff greet visitors at the entrance.
- 5. Technical entrance** For service and kitchen staff and small-scale deliveries; a logistics hub with **loading ramp** must be provided.



2.14.1.2 PROGRAMME

PUBLIC	GROUP OF ROOMS	AREA OF THE GROUP OF ROOMS, sq. m ¹	ROOMS	OCCUPANCY (PERSONS) IN THE ROOM	NUMBER OF ROOMS UNITS	ROOM AREA, sq. m ¹	TOTAL AREA sq. m ¹
PUBLIC SPACES	FOYER	920	Public foyer (pre-registration)		1	600	600
			Cloakrooms and lockers	2000	1	300	300
			Sanitary facilities ²		1	20	20
	ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS (cafés, restaurants)	1000	Bar-restaurant with outdoor terrace/gala space (area - visitor zone)	700 (bar-restaurant)/ 500 (gala events)	1	1000	1000
SEMI-PUBLIC SPACES	FOYER	7930	Congress foyer		1	7,500	7,500
			Sanitary facilities ²		1	300	300
			Medical facilities		1	20	20
			Parent-child area		1	50	50
			Multi-sensory room		1	30	30
			Prayer and meditation room		1	30	30
	HALLS ³	8070	Main hall A	2000	1	2200	2200
			Main hall B	1000	1	1200	1200
			Main hall C	800	1	1000	1000
			Main hall D	600	1	700	700
			Halls E1/E2	400	2	450	900
			Halls F1/F2	300	2	360	720
			Halls G1/G2/G3	200	3	190	570
			Halls H1/H2/H3	150	3	160	480
Halls J1/J2/J3	100	3	100	300			

PUBLIC	GROUP OF ROOMS	AREA OF THE GROUP OF ROOMS, sq. m ¹	ROOMS	OCCUPANCY (PERSONS) IN THE ROOM	NUMBER OF ROOMS	ROOM AREA, sq. m ¹	TOTAL AREA sq. m ¹	
					UNITS			
PREMISES WITH STRICT ACCESS CONTROL	MEETING ROOMS ³	840	Meeting rooms L	80	3	80	240	
			Meeting rooms M	50	8	55	440	
			Meeting rooms S	8	8	20	160	
	ANCILLARY SPACES (workspaces, backstage, VIP)	1550	Administration work areas and staff break/dining area		1	500	500	
			Flexible workstations for event organisers		1	100	100	
			Backstage areas			600	600	
			Media workspaces		1	200	200	
			VIP area		1	150	150	
	SERVICE FACILITIES (technical, storage)	3890	Conference catering kitchen and associated spaces		1	500	500	
			Staff facilities		2	35	70	
			Security facilities		1	20	20	
			Primary storage and logistics areas - for VCC inventory		1	3000	3000	
			Storage areas - for temporary storage of organiser equipment		3	100	300	
	MAIN AREA				sq. m.		24 200⁴	

1. The indicated space areas are indicative and may vary according to design proposals.
2. Sanitary facilities should be designed in accordance with current building technical regulations.
3. The provided areas for halls and meeting rooms are guidelines but must accommodate the specified number of occupants based on theatre-style seating.
4. The stated main area does not include circulation zones, elevator shafts, stairs, technical rooms, internal structural elements, partitions, or ceiling voids.

It is recommended not to exceed a total above-ground building area of 31,500 m².

2.14.1.3 DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES

PUBLIC SPACES

FOYER

Public foyer (pre-registration)

This is the first space that welcomes visitors, so it should be designed to be clear, attractive, and intuitive. The main entrances should seamlessly connect with outdoor public spaces and primary arrival flows, with access designed without significant level changes in accordance with universal design principles. It is advisable to provide multiple entrances and expansion zones both inside and outside the building so the space can flexibly adapt to events of varying scales. Even within the arrival zone, flows can be separated by event, facilitated by clearly defined access routes, separate entrances, strategically placed information points, and distinct registration areas. The registration area should be highly visible from the entrance and easily expandable as needed; it must control the flow into conference areas. Additionally, acoustic comfort should be ensured: use sound-absorbing finishes and provide quiet niches for conversations or phone calls; plan smooth circulation during peak times and breaks; ensure ample natural lighting and comfortable physical and visual connections to the outdoor public space. The foyer may include areas for temporary exhibitions, installations, and information kiosks to maintain spatial flexibility and vibrancy.

It is recommended to incorporate a coffee and snack bar (without on-site production kitchen) with seating and a convenience stop for purchasing small essentials or souvenirs, as well as an information desk and a comfortable waiting area with furniture.

Access to the bar-restaurant with panoramic terrace is provided directly from the foyer.

Cloakrooms and lockers

Cloakrooms and personal item storage follow a hybrid model: outerwear is left during events in a centrally staffed cloakroom, while personal belongings are stored temporarily in self-service lockers (no smaller than standard carry-on luggage capacity). Adjacent changing areas with mirrors and seating or surfaces for placing items should be planned. When multiple events occur simultaneously, mobile cloakrooms near specific halls may be provided. During international events, temporary spaces for guest luggage and equipment storage must be feasible.

Sanitary facilities

Sanitary facilities must comply with current hygiene standards and ensure universal accessibility. Baby-changing stations should be integrated in both the men's and women's areas, or a separate, publicly accessible room with a sanitary facility and changing table should be provided.

ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS

Bar-restaurant with outdoor terrace/gala space

On the upper floor, a public bar-restaurant with a large terrace offering panoramic city views is planned. The space will be used daily by visitors and event attendees. The design should ensure convenient, intuitive connections from the public foyer (via elevator and/or stairs), the ability to clearly separate public visitor and event participant flows when needed, and smooth links to

service zones. The restaurant operates with its own kitchen; when gala or special events are catered by external providers, the main conference catering kitchen is used, so clear and efficient logistical connections to this space are essential.

When configured for gala events, the space functions as a formal dining hall with seating at round tables and full service; a stage for musical or spoken performances is provided, along with an informal networking area, a clearly defined reception zone, and easy access to a cloakroom (which may be located on another floor if conveniently accessible). Guests should arrive comfortably from both inside the building and externally, with vehicle drop-off as close to the entrance as possible.

The space must be designed universally to accommodate various formats: from morning coffee bar to evening gala. Acoustic and lighting solutions should be carefully considered, with provisions for stage installation and functional links to service areas. In favourable weather, seating can extend onto the terrace or adjacent outdoor area; to support this, large glazed openings or sliding partitions should be planned to create a seamless connection between the interior and exterior spaces. Visual connection to the city is enhanced through glazed partitions, direct terrace access, and strategic viewpoints that create a distinctive atmosphere.

SEMI-PUBLIC SPACES

FOYER

Congress foyer

The Congress foyer is intended for registered participants. It should be designed as a single-level, open-plan space with sufficient clear height. Integration of natural light and outward views is valuable, and the space should be zoned according to varying noise tolerance levels. If the foyer spans multiple levels (e.g. when parallel halls or meeting rooms are located above), connections between event components must be short, easily identifiable, and logical. Ideally, the foyer should be flexibly divisible to allow multiple events to operate without interference.

The exhibition area is highly important – it must be prominently visible and integrated into natural participant circulation routes; exhibition zones must not be isolated or located in dead-end areas. A minimum clear height of 4 m is recommended, column-free, with provisions for rigging points for displays and equipment, and connections to power (and water, if required). The space must accommodate wall-mounted panels, three-dimensional exhibits, and small expo-style booths. For smaller events, measures should be included to create an intimate atmosphere so the foyer does not feel empty. Exhibitions should be integrated with coffee-break zones (or even lunch areas, if finger food is served) to attract visitor flows. If the foyer occupies multiple levels, exhibition areas should also be provided on upper floors.

Catering. Coffee breaks may be held in the exhibition zone, while dedicated dining areas for lunch and dinner are planned separately within the foyer. Depending on the event format, seated and/or standing service is provided, and the number of food service points is calibrated to the number of participants to avoid long queues. Separate catering zones should be provided for different events, with convenient connections to the kitchen and tableware collection points, and the ability to temporarily isolate the zone during service preparation. In areas designated for bars (coffee, beverages), electrical, water, and drainage connections should be pre-planned.

Work and lounge islands. Compact zones for work, relaxation, networking, and informal interaction may be incorporated into the foyer: seating with device charging points, Wi-Fi access, bar-height countertops with localised lighting, and greenery to create quieter micro-zones.

Event identity. A dedicated photo wall area and a highly visible surface for visual communication should be provided: for event logos, names, partner branding, and information displays.

Circulation flows. The main circulation routes must be designed to be wide and unobstructed, complying with evacuation and other safety requirements. No exhibition elements or furniture that could create a bottleneck should be placed within these primary flow corridors. Clear pathways and intuitive wayfinding systems must connect key points (registration, halls, lounge, and catering zones).

Additional functions. It is advisable to include lockers for personal items, drinking water fountains, spaces for mobile cloakrooms, and, adjacent to conference and catering areas, cleaning supply closets (which may be integrated into cabinetry) with water and drainage connections.

Outdoor terrace. A terrace accessible exclusively to congress participants may be provided as an additional space for breaks and informal interaction. Its orientation should be determined by views, sun exposure, and prevailing wind direction.

Sanitary facilities

Sanitary facilities should be designed in accordance with current hygiene standards, incorporating universal access solutions. Baby-changing stations should be integrated into both men's and women's areas, or a separate room accessible from common areas should be provided. In addition to the standard men's and women's sanitary facilities with toilet cubicles and shared sink areas, more private individual sanitary facilities should be included – not only for persons with disabilities but also for other users.

Medical room

A sound-insulated room with space for examination (bed or couch), a sink, and a small waiting area is required. It should be conveniently located near the sanitary facilities, but private, with the shortest possible route to a location accessible by emergency vehicles.

Parent-child area

A safely designed space for children of various ages and their accompanying adults. Quiet zones for breastfeeding and feeding children should be included. Ideally, this area should be situated away from the main circulation routes.

Multi-sensory room

A relaxation space for neurodiverse visitors: pleasant, calm surfaces, subdued and adjustable lighting, and excellent acoustic insulation. The room should be subdivided into several spaces catering to different user needs.

Prayer and meditation room

A neutral room with good sound insulation, featuring seating and open floor space, is recommended. A water point should be located nearby. The space should accommodate practices and meditation for various religions.

HALLS

Main halls (A, B, C, D) and other halls (E1/E2, F1/F2, G1/G2/G3, H1/H2/H3, J1/J2/J3)

The congress centre includes approximately 9,000 m² of halls and meeting rooms. The most critical aspect is a balanced mix of hall sizes and interconnections to enable multiple events to run smoothly and simultaneously. Design proposals should account for diverse event types (congresses, and corporate, political, and public events), which differ in planning, logistics, and flow management.

Halls are to be flat-floored, column-free, and free of fixed seating or permanent podiums. Large halls should follow the black box theatre principle: neutral, darker finishes that support varied scenography and minimise unwanted reflections. Smaller halls may utilise natural light with the option to fully black out the space. Architectural solutions should prioritise excellent acoustics, clear geometry, and versatility.

To ensure flexibility, halls should be connectable or divisible via mobile acoustic partitions, forming independent smaller or larger spaces as needed. For each subdivided section, separate electrical and data connections, HVAC zones, audiovisual control positions, ceiling suspension points, service access doors to support zones, visitor entrances, and backstage areas must be pre-planned. It must be possible to use one subdivided portion of a hall without disrupting activity in the other. Usage scenarios should be illustrated schematically – showing furniture layouts, access routes, and usable floor areas.

Hall groupings should be planned considering potential usage scenarios – for example: main hall + cluster of smaller halls + meeting rooms. Scenarios involving two simultaneous, distinct events must also be evaluated – requiring clear separation and signage for flows, foyers, and hall combinations.

Height and equipment suspension

Hall volume and height should be coordinated with the floor area. The aim for large halls is a clear height of approximately 10 m. A ceiling suspension grid spaced at ~3 × 3 m intervals should be planned, with a permissible point load of ~0.5–1 tonne (indicative values to be refined in technical solutions). Halls must be designed without internal columns to ensure optimal sightlines and flexible stage configurations.

Stage area

Hall proportions should accommodate a **mobile stage** and various stage setup scenarios, with convenient access, clear technical connections, and adjacent backstage and storage zones.

Servicing and flooring

Technical access doors and direct links to service zones must be provided adjacent to halls. Floor construction must allow movement of installation equipment and support temporary structures.

Storage

Storage spaces for interchangeable props and equipment should be planned near halls within the backstage zone, with efficient connections to both permanent and temporary storage areas and service access doors.

Orientation and expansion zones

It is essential that halls are **easy to locate**, entrances are **highly visible**, and that **sufficient expandable** pre-entrance space is provided for participants to gather, queue, or for the temporary placement of equipment.

Interpreter booths

Mobile interpreter booths, installed as needed, are to be provided. The locations for these booths must be pre-designated within halls, ensuring clear line-of-sight to the stage (or the provision of monitors), electrical and data connections, and acoustic isolation.

Audiovisual technician positions

In the audience area of each hall, a designated position for front-of-house (FOH) operators and/or the director must be included, with direct sightlines and communication links to both stage and auditorium. Floor service pits (for power, data, and audiovisual cabling), cable pathways to the stage, rigging points, ventilation, and acoustic shielding of technical zones must be planned.

These principles enable halls to operate flexibly, reliably and clearly, adapting to diverse events and scenarios.

MEETING ROOMS

Meeting rooms (S, M, L)

The VCC will include three sizes of meeting room. They are designed according to a flexible seating principle: furniture is easily reconfigurable, with more space allocated per participant than in standard conference halls, ensuring comfort for longer sessions.

Meeting rooms may include dedicated kitchenettes and sanitary facilities, as well as interconnecting doors allowing movement

between rooms without entering public areas. All rooms should provide access to natural light and the ability to fully black out the space (for presentations or video conferences).

Meeting rooms are positioned near main and parallel session halls, logically grouped into blocks for easy identification and convenient access. Clear connections between rooms and the congress foyer must be ensured, along with short service routes to storage and technical support zones.

ANCILLARY SPACES

Administrative workspaces with staff break and dining area

The administrative block is designed as an independent, quiet workspace with a separate external entrance and convenient links to the congress foyer and service zones. Workspaces must be ergonomic and clearly structured: individual desks for daily work, open collaborative team areas, and meeting rooms of varying sizes. At least two enclosed phone booths or isolated spaces for confidential calls (or virtual meetings) must be provided. Natural lighting, good acoustic separation, and simple reconfiguration of spaces according to need are essential.

Adjacent to the work areas, a staff break and dining area is planned: comfortable soft seating, bookshelves, dining tables, a kitchenette, and nearby sanitary facilities.

A small business centre is integrated into the administrative block, featuring a visitor waiting area, a receptionist (administrator) workstation, and a meeting room. This area must be clearly visible from the entrance, well-signposted, and offer flexible access to other areas. When needed, the business centre may be used for brief organiser meetings, media interviews, etc.

STRICTLY CONTROLLED ACCESS ROOMS

ANCILLARY SPACES

Temporary workspaces for event organisers

This is a flexibly planned space for event organiser teams. It should allow subdivision into multiple zones for different teams and activities. Universal workstations, lockers for personal items, and a lounge area with a mini-kitchenette are to be provided. Convenient access to the event foyer, technical rooms, and primary logistics routes is required. Entry may be shared with administrative staff or via a separate entrance (directly from outside), depending on flow management.

Media workspaces

This space is designated for journalist teams, with the ability to subdivide into individual workstations and collaborative zones. Secure equipment storage and charging stations must be included, along with the capability to monitor live feeds from halls and international news channels, and reliable high-speed internet connectivity. Lockers and a lounge area with a mini-kitchenette are to be installed. Dedicated interview rooms with good acoustics and convenient connections to the press conference hall and foyer must be planned. Access is provided via the public foyer and, if necessary, a separate external entrance. A journalist accreditation area is to be located at the entrance. The media zone should be expandable by incorporating adjacent rooms or spaces and opening additional entrances as needed.

One of the conference rooms should be adaptable for press conferences, meeting technical requirements and providing separate access for speakers, journalists, and the general public.

Backstage areas

A backstage area or dedicated room must be provided for each hall. This space is intended for speakers, interpreters, audiovisual directors, and operators. Near major halls, it is advisable to include work and lounge areas with refreshment facilities, a dressing room, and equipment storage. Direct access from the organiser work zone or a separate entrance from the foyer, depending on the event scenario, should be ensured. Backstage areas may serve as transitional zones between service spaces and the hall, but speakers must move separately from technical transport and logistics flows. For smaller halls, at least a basic speaker preparation area – with a seat, small table, and mirror – must be provided.

VIP area

This space is designated for invited guests, ensuring security, privacy, and comfort. Work and lounge areas, a cloakroom, a dressing room, sanitary facilities, a bar zone, and the possibility to organise catering are to be planned. The entrance should be located away from public and media entrances, with a covered drop-off area. Direct VIP access to the main halls, or a dedicated VIP route through a portion of the foyer, should be provided. The zone should be expandable by incorporating adjacent spaces and opening additional external entrances as needed.

SERVICE FACILITIES

Conference catering kitchen and associated zones

The kitchen is intended for conference catering providers, with the capability to prepare food on-site or to perform final preparation (reheating, portioning, serving). It serves meals to event participants and staff. The space group includes: beverage storage, ambient-temperature dry storage, separate refrigerated and freezer rooms, food preparation, cooking, heating, and serving zones, tableware storage and washing area, and tableware collection points. Efficient connections to event catering zones and service points should be ensured, with clear separation of “clean-dirty” flows, ventilation and odour control systems, water and drainage connections, and grease trap solutions. Useful features include trolley stations, direct links to service lifts, and covered access to the logistics loading dock.

Staff facilities

Dedicated changing and personal storage areas for catering and technical staff are to be provided: lockers, a changing zone, sanitary facilities, showers, and a break (dining) room. These spaces should be located near the kitchen and technical circulation routes, with a separate entrance.

Security facilities

The security post includes workstations, a video monitoring wall, a lockable equipment cabinet, and a compact area for brief team meetings and equipment distribution. Good connectivity to main entrances and technical corridors, data links, and uninterruptible power solutions should be ensured.

Main VCC inventory storage and logistics areas

This area stores and manages the congress centre’s furniture and equipment: various types of chairs and tables, modular carpeting, mobile cloakrooms, registration and lounge furniture, catering and exhibition display equipment, stage modules, additional lockers, partitions, and other props. It also houses installation equipment (ladders, lifting devices, trolleys). Storage spaces should be designed with sufficient clear height, higher floor load capacity, wide doors, and convenient turning areas. Separate zones for different inventory categories, a maintenance (repair) area, a waste sorting and storage zone, and charging points for battery-powered equipment should be provided.

Temporary storage facilities and loading ramp

A covered or enclosed logistics loading dock with convenient unloading bays is to be provided. Adjacent to it, several separate rooms or lockable, partitioned zones for temporary storage of organiser equipment should be planned. A clear internal route from the dock to the halls, exhibition, and catering zones must be established. An airlock or buffer zone is advisable to prevent direct outdoor exposure when service doors are open, avoiding drafts or noise intrusion into public areas.

Technical lifts If spaces are distributed across multiple levels, spacious service lifts capable of accommodating trolleys and lifting devices should be provided, with direct connections to main event zones and storage areas.

OUTDOOR SPACES

Public space

The VCC’s outdoor public spaces are to be designed as an attractive urban area that can be easily adapted for larger events or scenarios requiring enhanced security. Design solutions should allow temporary zoning, controlled access points, and outdoor registration desks, while maintaining uninterrupted pedestrian connections vital to the city and clearly directing visitors to main entrances.

The site must include space for at least 30 flagpoles – all flags to be uniform in size, height, lighting, and signage. Flags are to be integrated into the overall visual communication system, coordinated with temporary or permanent informational elements and event identity zones, accounting for the need and visual impact of larger-format information kiosks. When required, temporary structures – such as pavilions, tents, stages, or portals – may be installed, with discreet integration of electrical, data, lighting, and, where necessary, water and

drainage connections. Seating areas should be incorporated, along with designated zones for food trucks or stalls.

Landscaping should be designed as a year-round aesthetic and low-maintenance green structure that enhances biodiversity and microclimatic comfort. Plant selections include native species or those well-adapted to local urban conditions – groupings of trees, shrubs, and perennials.

Compositional planting should create quiet resting pockets and clear movement axes, preserving view corridors toward the river to the west. In areas where panoramic views are critical, taller trees with canopies above eye level or lower plantings that do not obstruct sightlines are to be used. Adjacent to seating areas, natural shade is to be provided, while along paths and plaza edges, tactilely clear and non-slip transitions between vegetated and hard surfaces must be designed in accordance with universal design principles. Lighting should be warm-toned and downward-directed to avoid glare and minimise disturbance to local fauna.



2.14.1.4 BUILDING SERVICE AND LOGISTICS

Different teams with varying logistical needs will operate in the building at different times:

- Event organisers (delivering, removing, receiving, and temporarily storing props and equipment);
- Catering and/or food suppliers (staff access, delivery of food products, prepared meals, and equipment);
- Media and broadcast crews (internal infrastructure, external logistics zone for live transmissions);
- Administrative and building systems maintenance staff.

LOGISTICS ZONES

Loading/unloading zone

This zone is recommended to be located on the eastern side of the plot, featuring multiple loading docks accessible without obstructing other vehicle access points. Catering logistics must comply with hygiene regulations. The loading zone should be designed as enclosed or covered. Vehicle circulation scenarios (schematics) for service traffic must be provided.

Service personnel arrival zone

It is recommended that staff access the building near the logistics zone, with transport access to the staff door. Good connectivity to service areas must be ensured.

Temporary waste storage area

To be located near the loading zone, concealed from view to the greatest extent possible and seamlessly integrated into the overall environment.



2.14.1.5 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL EVENTS

The Vilnius Congress Centre is intended not only for congresses and conferences but also for high-level political events (e.g. EU Presidency events, NATO summits, etc.). Such events occur infrequently but entail specific requirements, most of which will be implemented during the technical design phase. Participants in the competition are provided with recommendations to consider when developing their proposals.

Zoning and entrance. During events, the space will be divided into security zones. Each zone typically requires separate access routes and entrances – preferably not adjacent to one another – as well as dedicated arrival and registration areas. The outdoor site may be temporarily enclosed when necessary, while maintaining primary pedestrian connections. During events, it must be possible to install a covered walkway – from the delegate vehicle drop-off point to the main entrance (e.g. a pavilion or lightweight canopy) – to ensure controlled and comfortable movement in all weather conditions.

Media infrastructure. High-level political events may involve up to 1,000 journalists. Fully equipped media centre facilities must be provided, including: press conference hall, broadcast studio, press information and IT support rooms, lounge and dining area, editing suites, post-production rooms, and interview booths. During events, the outdoor area must accommodate broadcast trucks with electrical and data connections and secure cable pathways into interior spaces. At least six such positions are to be planned, with the number adjustable based on the event's significance. Multiple press conference halls are typically allocated, with non-intersecting circulation routes for speakers and journalists.

Catering and lounge areas. At high-level political events, participant groups are catered for separately. Participant groups include: VIPs, delegates, journalists, and support staff. Lounge areas must offer comfortable seating and facilities for working on laptops. Electronic equipment storage lockers are to be provided in the foyers. A dedicated smoking area may operate within the VIP zone.

Interpretation and backstage. High-level political events involve numerous interpreters (e.g. EU events operate in 23 official EU languages). Preparation and rest areas for interpreters must be provided, along with dedicated booth zones within halls. Backstage areas must ensure separate circulation routes for speakers and technical staff, preventing interference with audience zones.

Operations and service. High-level political events typically involve large security teams responsible for delegate protection. Additional storage spaces for security equipment must be allocated near the main control points. Indoor and outdoor spaces for large group photographs (amphitheatre-style) are to be provided. In the outdoor area, 30 uniform flagpoles are to be integrated.

Independence from municipal utility networks and communications security
During high-level political events (e.g. NATO summits), the building will need to be disconnected from the city's power grid and the building must be powered by generators. It will also be essential to ensure autonomous energy supply (on-site generation) so the centre can function independently.

2.14.2 SEGMENT OF A. GOŠTAUTO STREET AND THE NERIS EMBANKMENT

Propose a humanisation concept for the segment of A. Goštauto Street between A. Tumėno Street and the Albertas Bridge project intervention zone, and a concept for enhancing the public space along the Neris embankment segment.

The plot for the embankment is currently being formed:

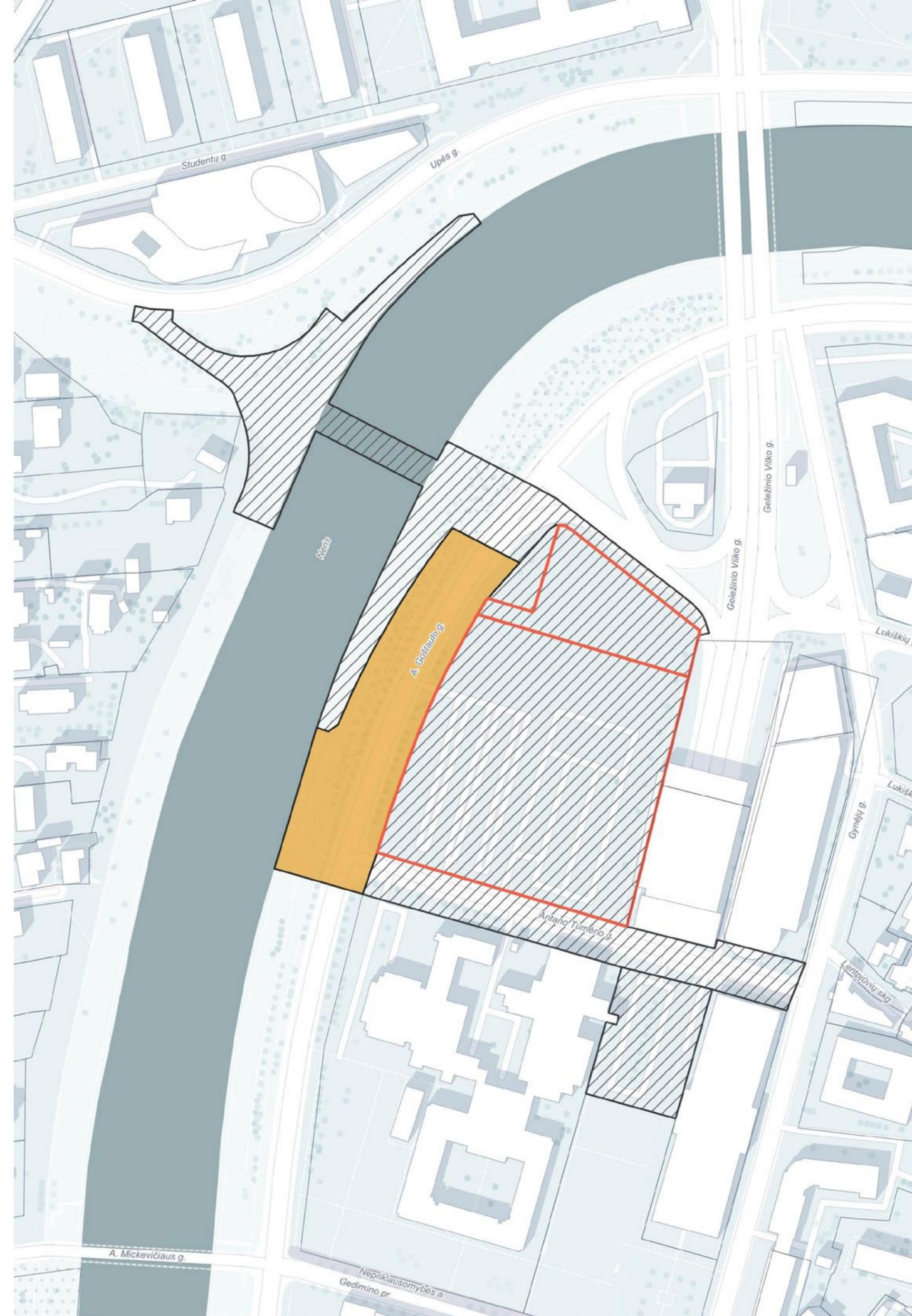
DESIGN GUIDELINES

Humanisation of A. Goštauto Street:

- Propose street humanisation measures that strengthen the connection between the river and the VCC public space. This should be achieved through proposing solutions for the street materials that meet the requirements for a Category C street. During major events, traffic on A. Goštauto Street will be restricted, temporarily allowing the street to function as a shared space, where temporary, movable planters and small-scale architectural elements may be used – provided that safety is ensured and access remains available for public and special transport. Participants are requested to schematically illustrate street usage scenarios both during events and on regular days.
- Propose additional public transport stop locations on both sides of A. Goštauto Street. Public transport stops may be planned beyond the competition boundary if such a solution is rational within the proposed concept.
- A permanent pedestrian crossing into the embankment zone is recommended to be aligned with the extension of A. Tumėno Street.

Enhancement of the Neris embankment public space segment:

- The embankment design must harmoniously integrate the approaches of the planned Albertas Bridge and form a continuous public space system.
- The spatial solutions for the embankment must be closely linked to the VCC public space design, creating a cohesive chain of urban spaces for walking, relaxation, and informal interaction.
- The embankment zone should be planned as an organic extension of the congress centre's activities, offering opportunities to serve as a relaxation area for event participants during breaks – providing quiet, comfortable spaces for short outdoor rest.
- High-quality recreational infrastructure must be incorporated into the embankment design. The following elements – or others deemed significant to the participant's architectural concept – may be proposed for the embankment zone: a drinking water station, comfortable access points to the water, an embankment amphitheatre adaptable for public events or leisure activities.
- It is recommended to maintain existing longitudinal connections (pedestrian and cycle paths) and installed infrastructure.
- Existing trees in good condition should be preserved.



2. DESIGN BRIEF

7. A terrace for a café pavilion and public toilets (temporary structures) should be planned, with permanent utility connections provided.
8. Opposite the congress centre, within the embankment zone, a multifunctional pontoon terrace may be designed for various public space activities: events, relaxation, guided tours, or docking for water transport.
9. Water access points may be created using natural methods – stone or concrete steps, boulders, and vegetated wetland zones – to foster a close and safe human connection with the river.
10. Floating pontoons or suspended terraces at the water's edge should be included to enrich the embankment's spatial structure, enhance the sense of proximity to the river, and augment the recreational experience.
11. Rest areas must be provided along the embankment: benches, loungers, or other integrated seating solutions for both individual and group use.
12. On the upper embankment terrace, temporary or permanent commercial spaces should be provided. Conceptual proposals are requested.
13. High-quality, creative, and seamlessly integrated accessibility solutions must be designed. They must be non-discriminatory.
14. Universal design principles must be applied when developing solutions for people with diverse needs.
15. The environment must be safe. Embankment surfaces and small-scale architectural elements must be designed to pose no risk to visitors and to be used intuitively.
16. Low-maintenance perennial plantings well-adapted to urban conditions and the local climate should be designed. Landscaping should incorporate a variety of species to create visual diversity and seasonal change.
17. Proposals should include solutions that restore soil ecosystems and promote biodiversity, particularly supporting pollinator populations.
18. Public space lighting solutions must be provided. The site should be thoughtfully adapted for use throughout different seasons and times of day, with a high-quality lighting design that considers general, accent, task, and festive lighting scenarios.

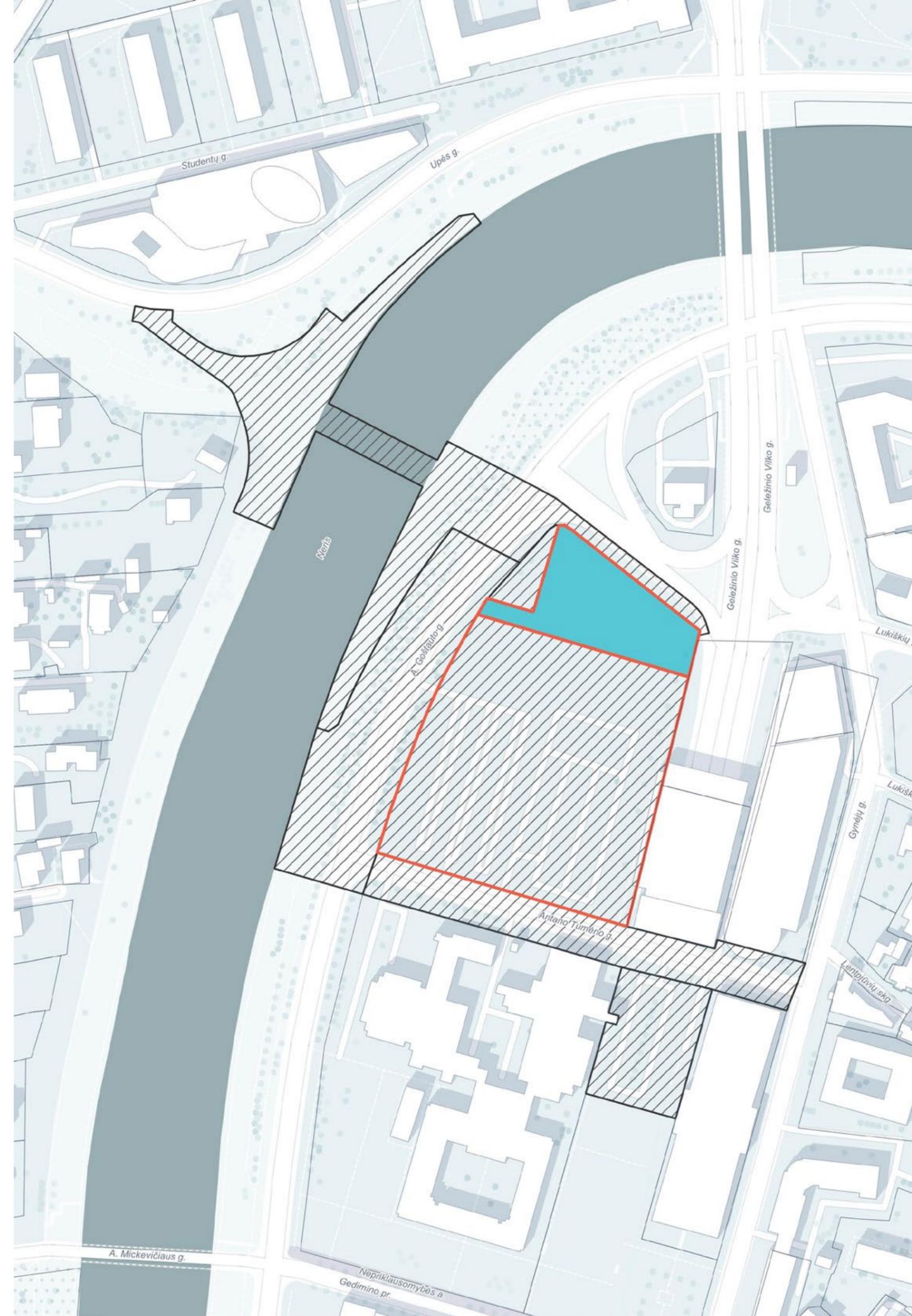


2.14.3 PROSPECTIVE HOTEL LOCATION

A hotel is planned in the northern part of the plot, complementing and reinforcing the operational profile of the VCC.

DESIGN GUIDELINES:

1. The plot area is designated for a ~230-room hotel.
2. The hotel volume must integrate smoothly into the overall urban structure of the congress centre complex, ensuring functional and visual connectivity.
3. The hotel's volume and scale must be contextual – avoiding dominant forms and maintaining a respectful relationship with the historic environment in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Requirements section, and must not overshadow protected cultural heritage assets.
4. Pedestrian connections to the congress centre, the embankment, and public transport must be clear, convenient, and safe.
5. Circulation for service vehicles and guest drop-off/pick-up traffic must be resolved effectively.
6. A public zone is to be established between the hotel and the VCC. This crossing axis should be designed as an attractive public space integrating an infrastructure corridor, clearly indicating movement priorities and ensuring the safety of all user flows.
7. Provide solutions for the building envelope.
8. Functional layouts and circulation diagrams for the hotel's ground floor must be proposed, defining public and service access points and integrating them with spatial solutions.

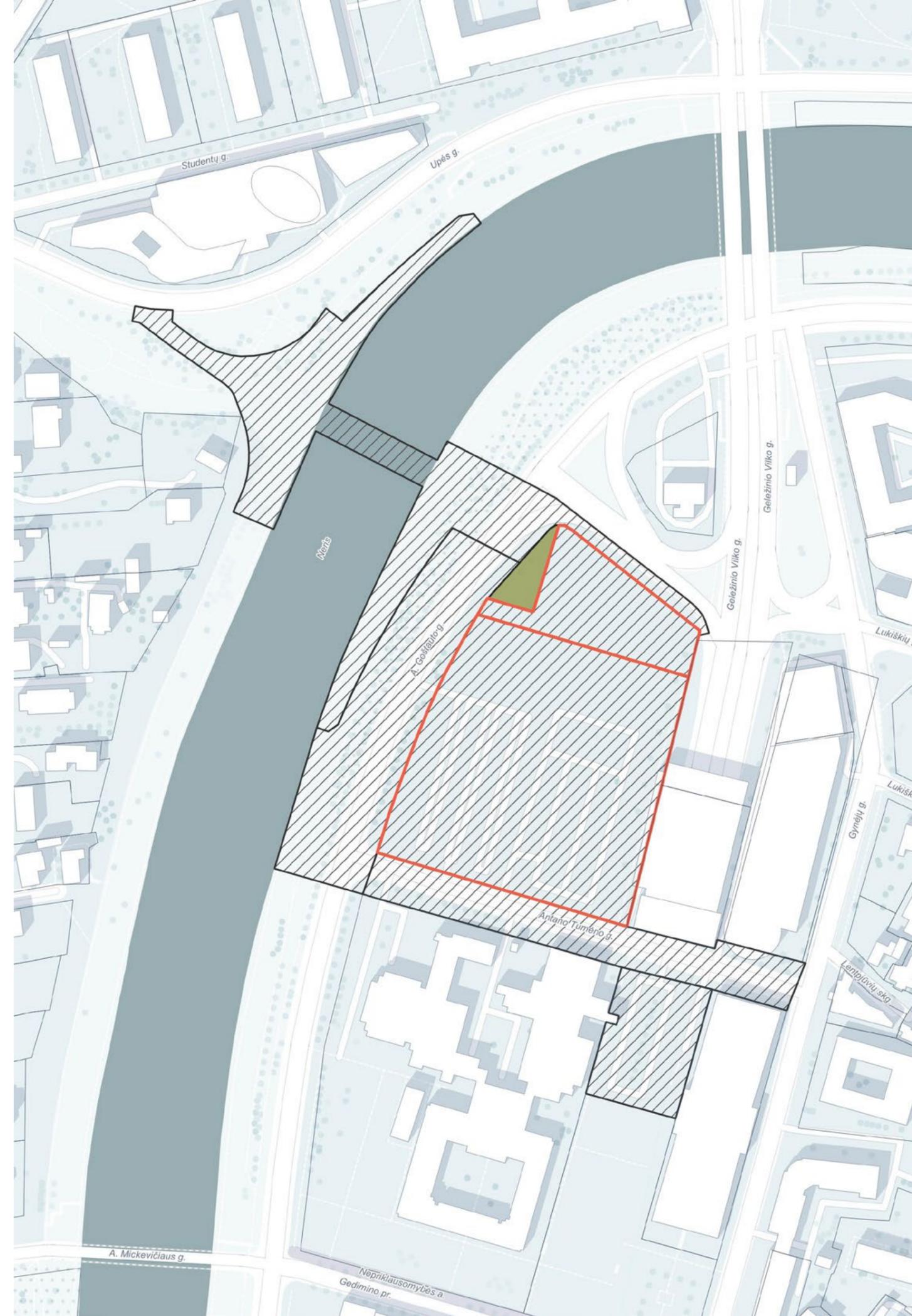




2.14.4 A. SAKALAIUSKAS SQUARE

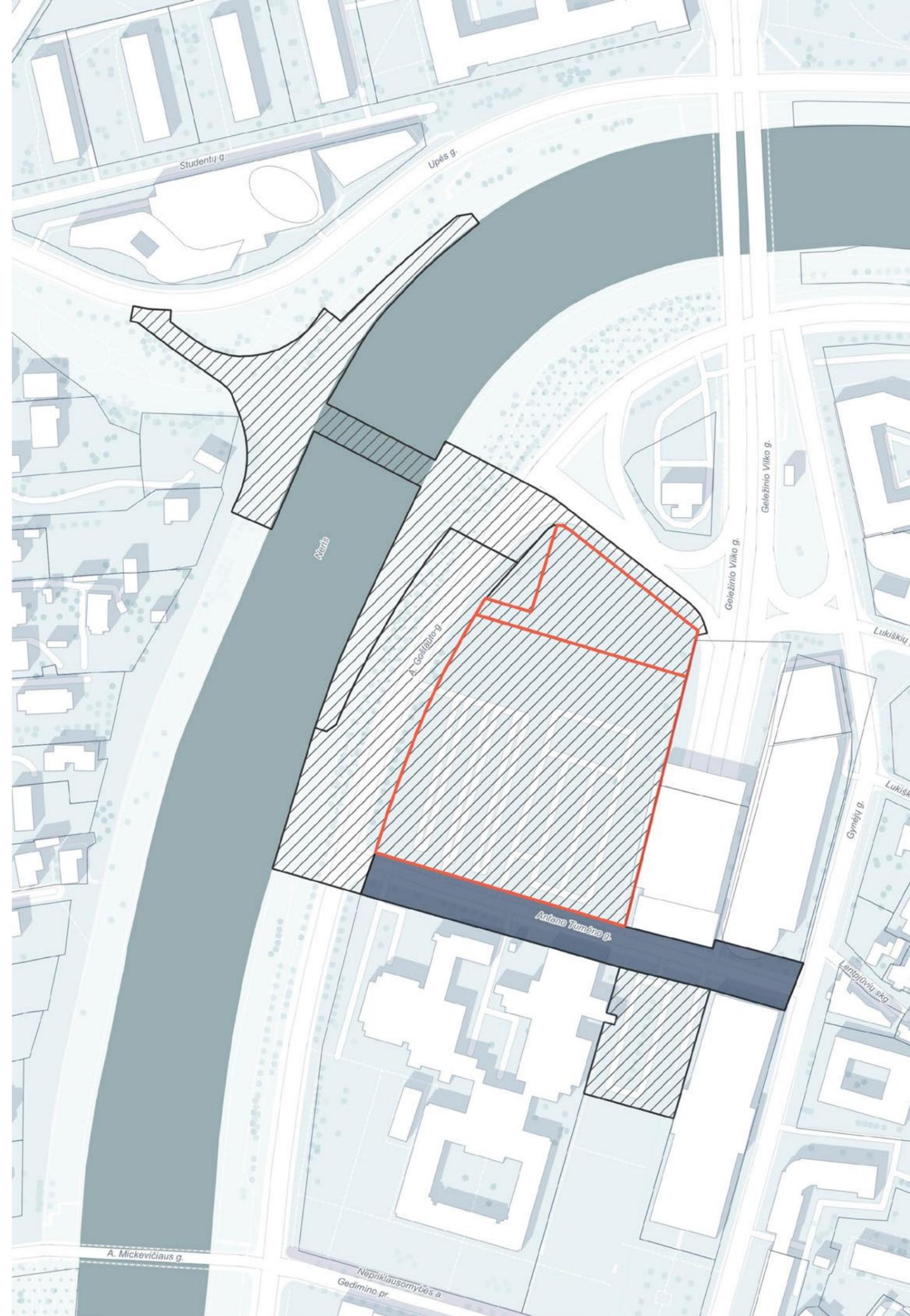
DESIGN GUIDELINES:

1. In the north-western corner of the site lies the commemorative stone marking the spot where Artūras Sakalauskas – a volunteer soldier and defender of the Supreme Council-Reconstituent Seimas – died on 21 August 1991 while halting a Soviet army assault near the Seimas Palace in defence of Lithuania's independence. No proposals altering the stone or its location are to be submitted.
2. Solutions for renewing the paving and landscaping of A. Sakalauskas Square are requested (preserving the oak tree planted by the Sakalauskas family), ensuring seamless integration with the congress centre's design solutions.
3. Annual commemorations of his death are held at this stone. Small-scale architectural elements should be included to enable commemorative gatherings and visits by individual mourners.



2.14.5 SEGMENT OF A. TUMĖNO STREET

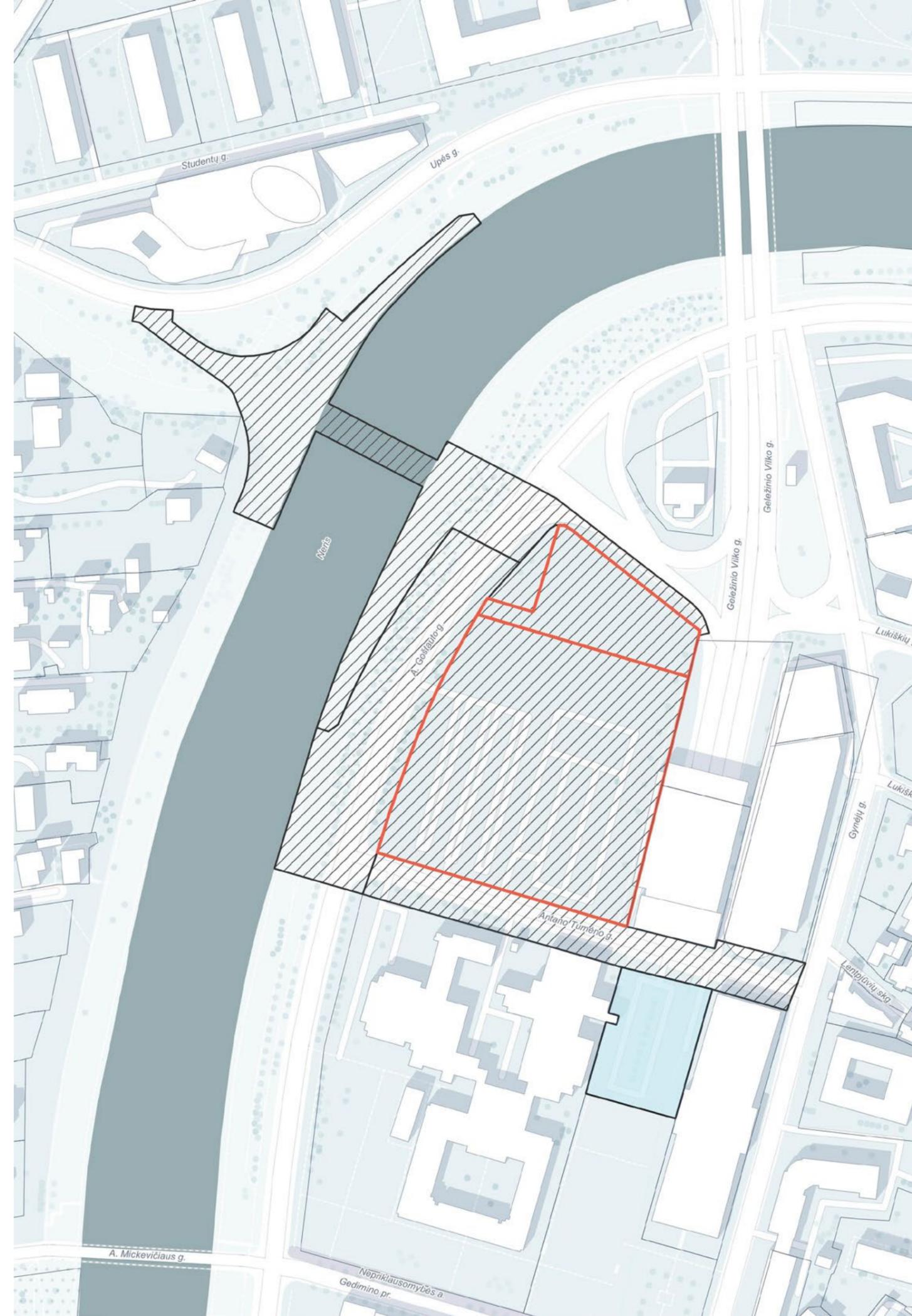
A vision for street improvement should be proposed, taking into account that vehicular traffic will continue to operate along the street. Solutions for paving, placement of small-scale architectural elements, street landscaping, and locations for temporary vehicle stops and passenger drop-off/pick-up zones should be provided.



2.14.6 AREA BETWEEN THE SEIMAS PALACE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA AND M. MAŽVYDAS LIBRARY

A pedestrian route analysis has shown that VCC guests arriving from Vilnius Senamiestis or by public transport and micromobility devices will travel toward the congress centre via Gediminas Avenue, crossing Nepriklausomybės Square and the current car park area. A vision for this space is requested – one that harmonises and enhances the Vilnius Congress Centre’s design solutions.

The site lies within the protected cultural heritage territory of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania building, other structures, and the Nepriklausomybės Square complex (Cultural Heritage Register No. 16080); therefore, all proposed solutions must ensure the preservation of the complex’s valuable attributes.



3. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 LEGAL ACTS AND REGULATIONS

The proposed solutions must comply with the current editions of applicable Building Technical Regulations, normative construction technical documents, Lithuanian standards, and other legal acts governing the preparation of design documentation, as well as with established best practices in the design of such facilities.

3.2 BEST PRACTICE (USEFUL REFERENCES)

Participants are encouraged to review publicly available conference centre planning guidelines prepared by the International Association of Professional Congress Organisers (IAPCO).

4. USEFUL LINKS AND REFERENCES

Website of the Architectural Design Competition for the Vilnius Conference Centre: www.vilniuscongresscentre.lt

[Design solutions for the „Alberto“bridge](#)

[Report on Arboricultural Assessment of the Site](#)

[Assessment of the Need for Archaeological Investigations](#)

[Geological and Geotechnical Survey Report](#)

[Guidelines for Conference Centre Planning](#)

Interactive Map of the Vilnius General City Plan: <https://maps.vilnius.lt/lt/map/bendrasis-planas#layers>

Master Plan of the Territory of Vilnius City Municipality: <https://vilnius.lt/naujienos/informacinis-pranesimas-apie-patvirtinta-vilniaus-miesto-savivaldybes-teritorijos-bendraji-plana>

Register of Cultural Heritage: <https://kvr.kpd.lt/#/static-heritage-search>

Vilnius Old Town Protection Regulations: https://www.kpd.lt/vln_regl/index.htm

Vilnius transport map: <https://maps.vilnius.lt/lt/map/transportas#layers>

Vilnius City Sustainable Mobility Plan: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t9xSEd6hsz4LDmMjKk-Ifq5BNgTDU6/view?pli=1>

Vilnius Scheme of Parking Space Ratios: <https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=231f5ba22b0b4b5eb86268687f064138>

Map of Parking Zones: <https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=231f5ba22b0b4b5eb86268687f064138>

Map of Traffic Flows in Vilnius: <https://portal.sisp.lt/portal/apps/instant/filtergallery/index.html?appid=f6bc1677319b4710975a6d4826694c1a>

Vilnius City Council Resolution No. 1-664, 16 September 2020: <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/0385e891fc4211eab72ddb4a109da1b5?jfwid=2r1mexre>

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