URBAN DESIGN · KRAKÓW · JUNE 2026

Renewal of Rynek Dębnicki

From a purely commercial space to a consumption-free, multifunctional open space for all ages.

WORKSHOP The Urban International Workshop — Future-Proof Cities: Planning Urban Local Center for Sustainability

PLACE · DATE Dębniki, Kraków · 8th – 12th June 2026

TEAM Arielle Bagre, Miriam Baier, Sebastian Ierardi, Giulia Rainieri, Selina Jones

Erasmus+ Kraków Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny w Krakowie UGA Université Grenoble Alpes Università di Parma Università Niccolò Cusano Bauhaus-Universität Weimar



Proposal plan — detail

01 — THE SITE TODAY

A market for buying, not for staying

Dębniki district, Kraków

Rynek Dębnicki is a local neighborhood market located in the Dębniki district of Kraków. It serves as an important everyday destination for residents, providing fresh produce, local goods, and small-scale retail services. The market is open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The site consists of stalls with different orientations, creating a diverse but fragmented spatial arrangement. At present, the market functions primarily as a place of consumption and transaction. Visitors typically come to shop and leave shortly afterward, as the space offers few opportunities for gathering, resting, or social interaction. There is currently no dedicated seating, limited areas for community activities, and little incentive for people to stay beyond their immediate shopping needs.

MON – FRI
6:00 – 18:00

SATURDAY
6:00 – 16:00



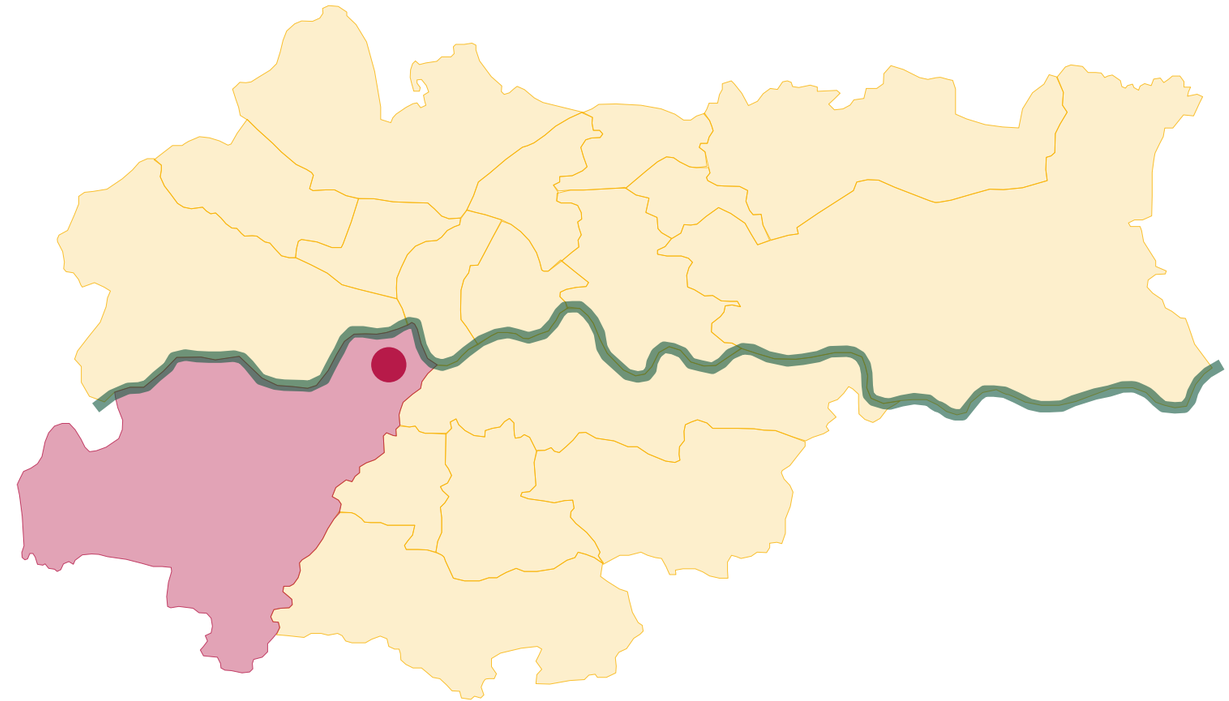


Rynek Dębnicki — the market square, its kiosks and stalls

02 — HISTORY

From royal village to neighbourhood hub

Dębniki within the districts of Kraków



Medieval — Dębniki as a royal village and center of craftsmanship

1893 – 1912 — The development of today’s central marketplace. Historically significant buildings were constructed: “Villa Pod Nietoperzem” and “Pod Sową”

1909 — Annexation to Krakow

1912 — Official name: “Rynek Dębnicki”

1920s & 1930s — Expansion of the neighborhood

1939 – 1945 — Plans to demolish the historic buildings and replace them with a model Nazi city were never carried out

Today — A local hub serving as both a market and a community center

FEATURES

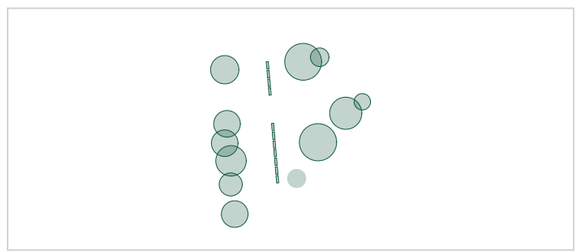
- Closed-in perimeter development
- Historic apartment buildings
- Small-town character despite being part of the city of Krakow

03 — SITE ANALYSIS

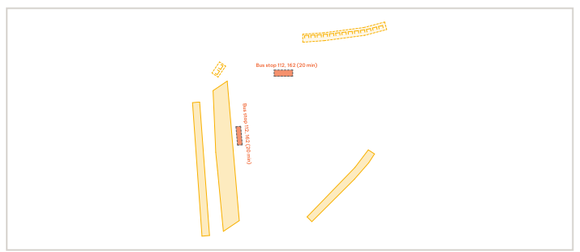
Existing situation

Green space, mobility, stalls and barriers around the market

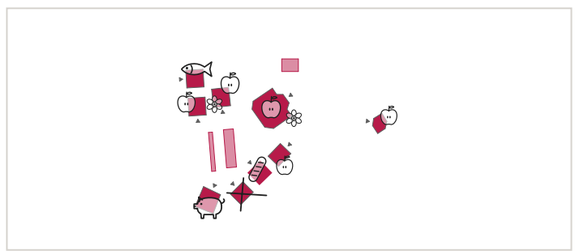




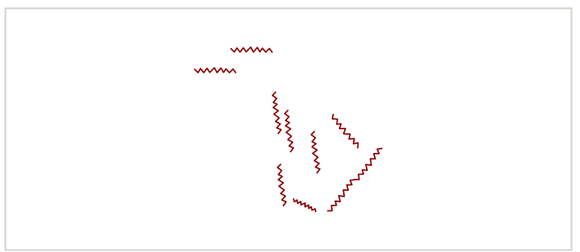
green space



parking, bus, bike



stalls



barriers

04 — ACCESSIBILITY

Well connected, on foot, by bike and by transit

Bus and tram network around the market; walking and cycling distances

Public transport

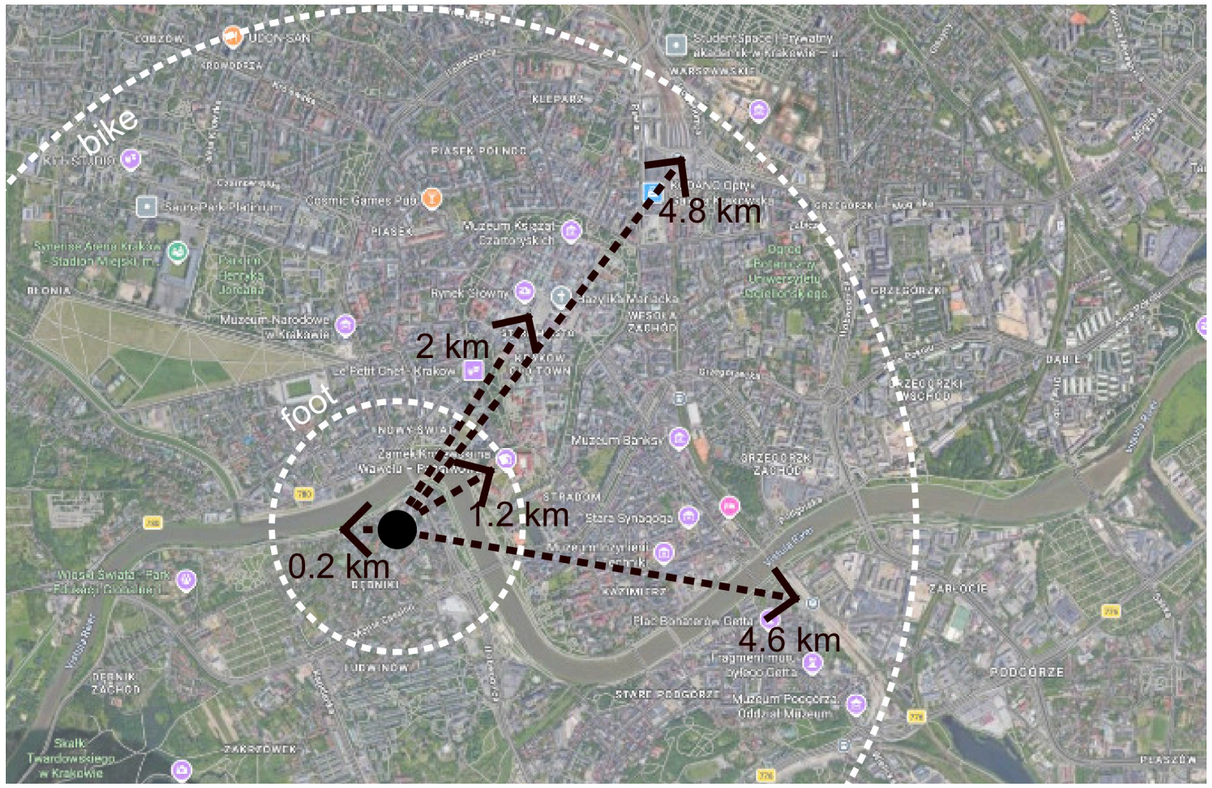
- bus stop
- tram stop
- bus line
- tram line
- market square



Walking & cycling distances

foot / bike radius

0.2 km · 1.2 km · 2 km · 4.6 km · 4.8 km



05 — SWOT

Strengths to build on, gaps to fill

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the market today

Strengths

- Multi-modal access: foot, transit, car, bike. Two stops at market
- Parking available nearby on multiple sides
- Quiet — far from main roads, near the river
- Attractive river and green space nearby
- Stable, family-run businesses; low turnover
- Natural microclimate: river reduces urban heat

Weaknesses

- No seating or linger zones; low quality of stay
- Purely consumption-oriented space; nothing invites pause or dwell
- Fragmented layout: scattered stalls create visual and spatial confusion
- No clear focal point; overall structure feels unorganised

Opportunities

- Seating and stay zones could transform it into a welcoming public space
- “Pre-arrival” leisure for transit users (arrive early, walk through the market)
- River/green integration boosts recreational value
- Cooler microclimate draws visitors from hotter areas
- Broader audience if experience quality rises
- Road proximity (needs careful safety planning)

Threats

- Upgrade success may cause overcrowding and erode local character
- Events and popularity risk noise conflict with nearby residents
- Adjacent high-traffic road: persistent safety and noise pressure

06 — PROPOSAL

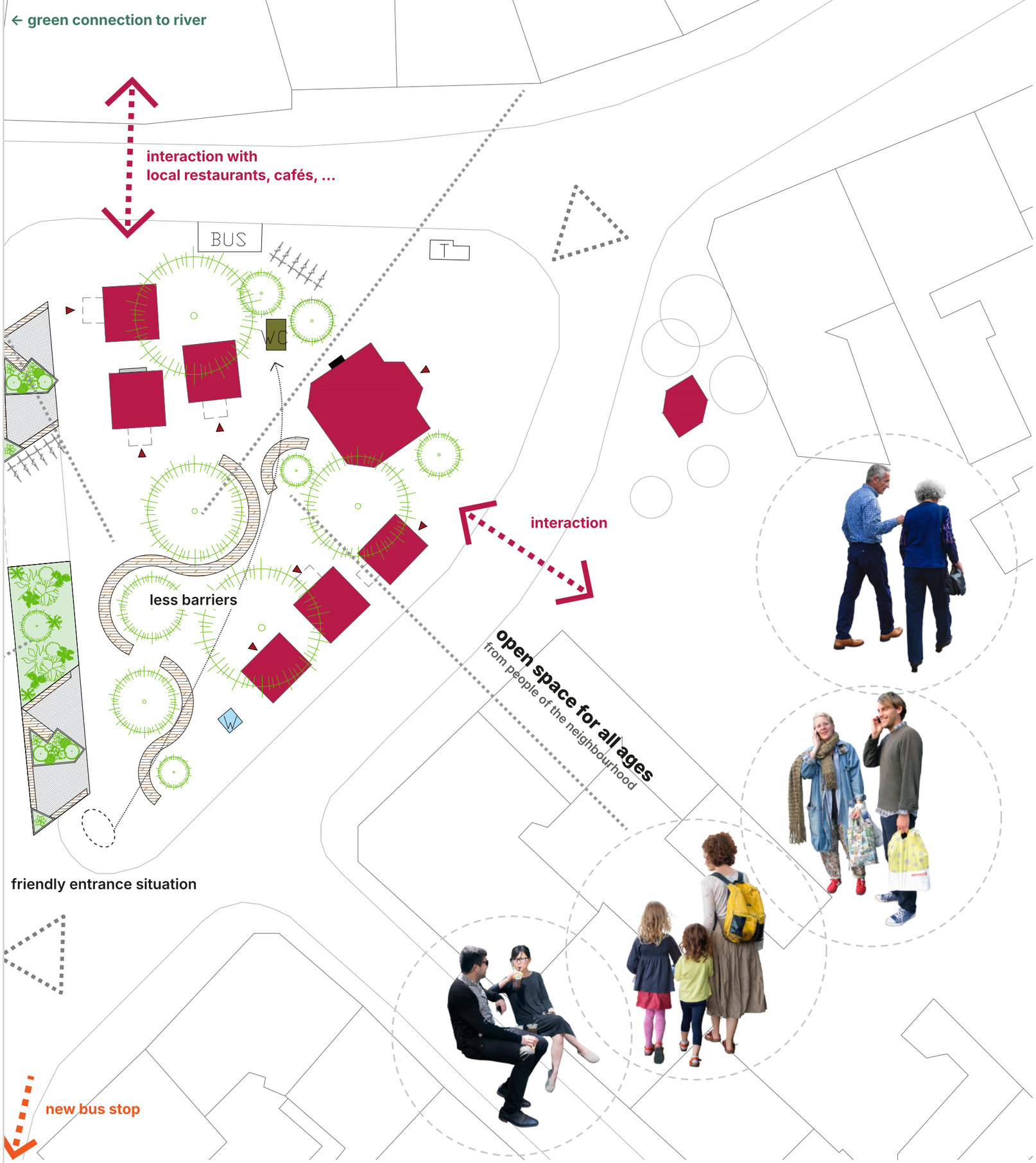
consumption-free + multifunctional open space

workshop space · temporary market stalls · seating area · playground

The proposed renewal aims to transform Rynek Dębnicki from a purely commercial space into an attractive and vibrant public place that encourages people to spend time there. The project introduces an architectural structure that supports multiple uses throughout the day and across different seasons.

This structure will provide spaces for sitting, selling goods, hosting workshops, and playing, creating opportunities for both everyday encounters and organized community events. The vision is to establish a welcoming environment for all age groups. Children can use the space for play and exploration, adults can meet, shop, and participate in workshops, while older residents can enjoy comfortable seating and social interaction.

By combining market functions with places for recreation, learning, and community engagement, the renewed Rynek Dębnicki will become not only a marketplace but also a lively neighborhood hub that strengthens local identity and social connections.

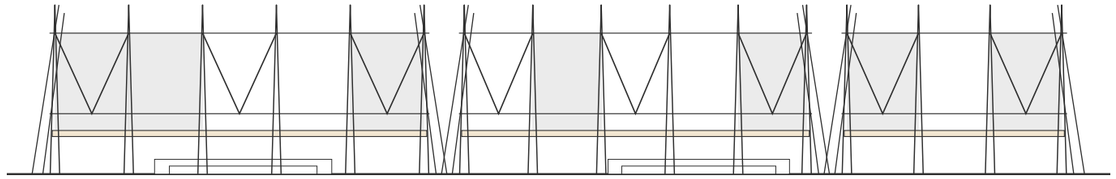


07 — ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURE

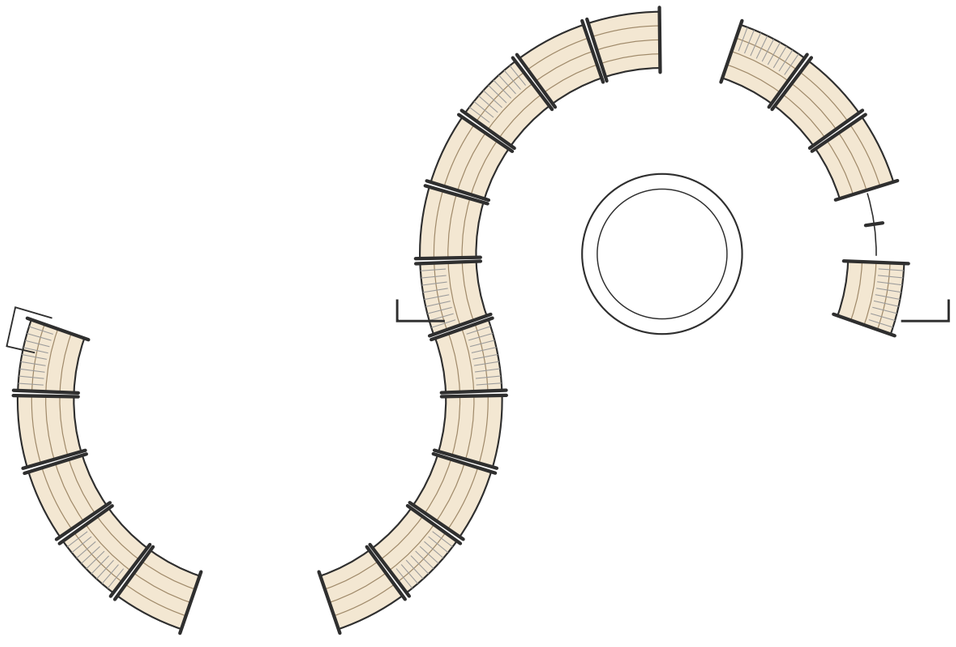
One timber structure, many uses

Sitting, selling goods, hosting workshops, and playing

elevation



plan



architectural structure:

› sitting, selling goods, hosting workshops, and playing

› participatory design and construction process with local residents

REFERENCE ARCHITECTURAL STRUCTURE



timber frame with swings and benches



participatory construction



seating parklet



planted seating platform