

OLD TOWN, Group 1

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Current Challenges

- Heavy traffic barrier (13. janvāra iela).
- Central Bus Terminal blocks connections.
- Canal zone perceived as “backside”.
- Market halls turned away from city.
- Fragmented flows between Old Town, Station, and Market.

Strategy 1: Relocating the Bus Station

- Bus terminal moved to the Station area (next to Central Station / Rail Baltica).
- Frees up prime land at the canal & market edge for new public space.
- Strengthens multimodal hub: train + bus + future tram: seamless transport node.



Balti Jaama Turg / Tallinn:

“Market as transport hub interface”

Links market, station, and Old Town into one urban node. Very relevant for bus station relocation and multimodal hub.

Strategy 2: Transform The Canal into attractive Urban Space

- Transform canal zone from “backside” into front yard.
- New bridges, decks, terraces, and green promenades.
- Develop public squares and seating areas along the canal.
- Market halls open entrances towards the canal facing the city.



Strategy 3: Market Transformation

- Reprogram halls:
- Meat Pavilion **cultural/events venue**.
- Gastronomy Pavilion **cafés & bistros**.
- Remaining halls concentrated food trade.
- Highlight architectural heritage
- Integrate **climate-smart renovation**.



Mercado San Miguel/ Madrid:

Highlighting architecture as identity – from market hall to city icon

Strategy 4: Temporary & Artistic Interventions

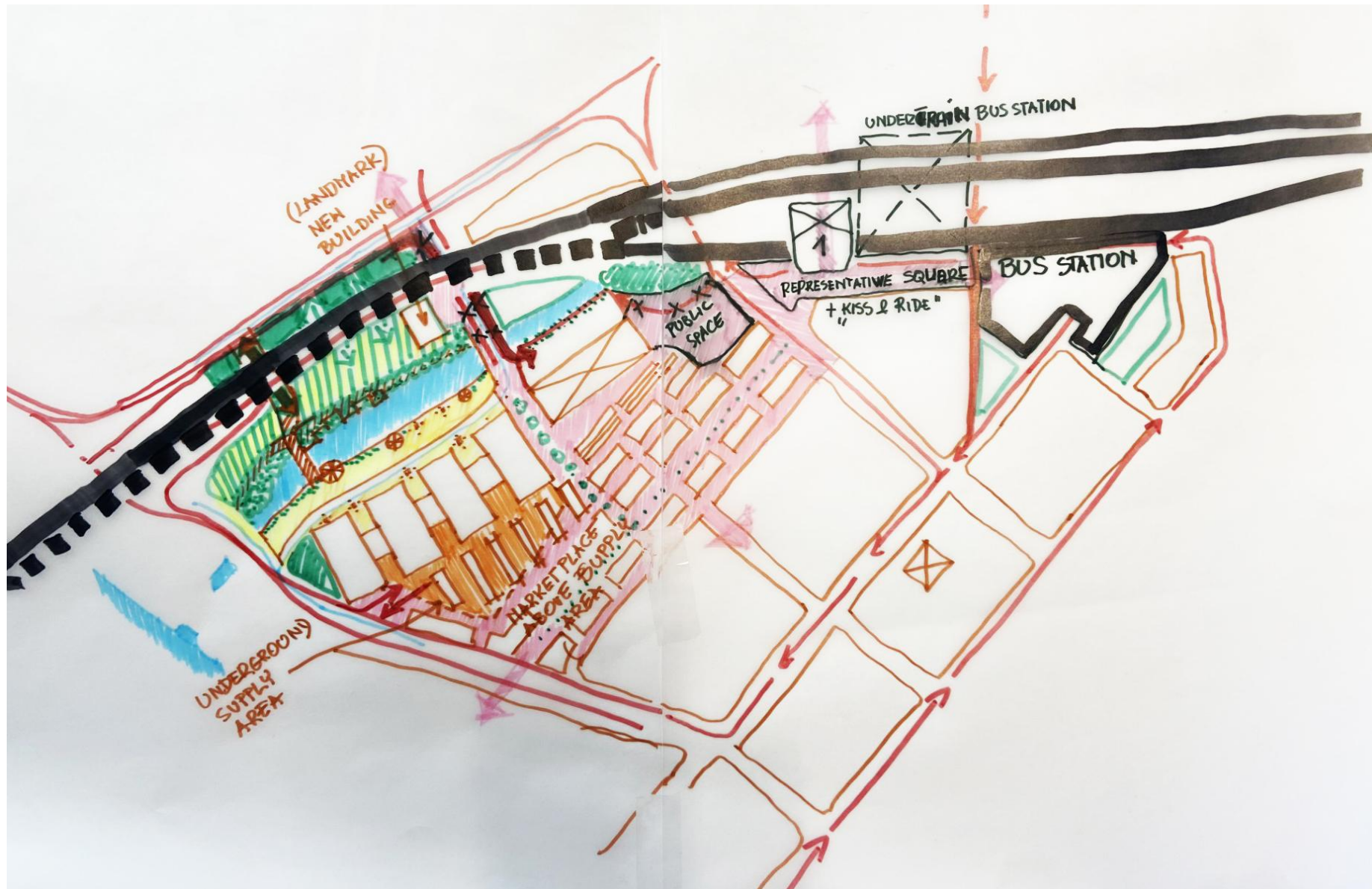
- Test solutions before permanent redesign.
- Activate open areas with art installations, light projects.
- Highlight places through artistic interventions – turning overlooked spots into destinations.



Strategy 5: A Network of Public Spaces

Transforming fragmented open areas into a continuous urban fabric.

- Connect Old Town squares, the Canal promenade, Market forecourts, Spīķeri courtyards, and the Daugava waterfront into a cohesive system of public spaces.
- Ensure continuity in materials, lighting, greenery, and wayfinding so the experience feels like one journey.
- Create a hierarchy of spaces: from intimate pocket parks and terraces to major civic squares.
- Integrate new public space freed up by the relocation of the Bus Terminal into this network.



Key actions:

- Relocate the Bus Terminal to Station area.
- Free canal edge for public realm.
- Open Market halls towards the canal.
- Redesign 13. janvāra iela for people.
- Test & highlight spaces through temporary use and art.
- Create a continuous pedestrian promenade linking Old Town, Canal, Market forecourts, Spīķeri and the Daugava waterfront.