NATALIE ADELHOEFER (SE) PABLO ALLEN-VIZÁN (ES) ANTOINE ALLORENT (FR) JOHAN ALTENIUS (SE) LAURA ALVAREZ (NL) BLAŽ BABNIK ROMANIUK (SI) NICOLA DARIO BALDASSARRE (IT) EDUARD BALCELLS (ES) NICOLAS BARNAVON (FR) BENOÎT BARNOUD (FR) GUILLAUME BARON (FR) MATTEO BIASIOLO (IT) DAVID BONSIB (SE) CYRIL BRETON (FR) ERBLIN BUCALIU (KO) MIHAI

EUROPAN
13

BUSE (RO) IVÁN CAPDEVILA CASTELLANOS (ES) DAVID CASTANHEIRA (PT) FRANCISCO JAVIER CASTELLANO PULIDO (ES) FRANCESCO CECCARELLI (IT) YAJUN CHEN (CN) IRIS CHERVET (FR) AURORE CROUZET (FR) FRANÇOIS DANTART (FR) STYLIANI DAOUTI (GR) BEGOÑA DE ABAJ CASTRILL (ES) LOUISE DEDENROTH HØJ (DK) DANIEL DEL REY HERNÁNDEZ (ES) FLORENT DESCOLAS (FR) BOGDAN DEMETRESCU (DE) ALEXANDRE DUBURE (FR) YOANN DUPOUY (FR) GERARD DURAN (RO) MASSIMO DICECCA (IT) JO-NIKLAS DODOO DURAN GELABERT (ES) GUILLAUME DURANEL BARBARÀ (ES) TOMEU DÜRIG (CH) GAUTIER DUTHOIT (FR) BENNI EDER (FR) GUILLERMO EICKELBERG (DE) FERNANDO EIROA LORENZO (ES) (AT) CHRISTIAN JULES EYMARD (FR) MIGUEL FERNÁNDEZ-GALIANO CARLES ENRICH (ES) FERREIRA (PT) SERAFINO FIORIELLO (IT) OCÉANE FOLLADOR (FR) LARA FREIRE ROMERO (ES) KATARZYNA FURGALINSKA (PL) RODRÍGUEZ (ES) SARA IGNACIO GALBIS LLORÉNS (ES) CLAIRE GIRARDEAU (FR) MIGUEL GONZÁLEZ CASTRO (ES) CARLOS GOR (ES) BERNARDO GRILLI DI CORTONA (IT) ELI GRØNN (NO) GIOVANNI

ANALYSIS
OF A SESSION

ADRIÀ GUARDIET GLORIALANZA (IT) GUILLEMOT (FR) (ES) SIMON (LV) GONZALO DACE GURECKA (ES) JOANNA GUTIÉRREZ HAGSTEDT (SE) DOMINIQUE HAUDEROWICZ (DK) PERNILLE HEILMANN LIEN (NO) SIGNE HELLAND NYBERG (NO) ANDREY HODKEVICH (BG) AMINE IBNOLMOBARAK (FR) TOMI JASKARI (FI) TADAS JONAUSKIS (LT) MIRABELA JURCZENKO (PL) NELA KADIC (AT) TAPIO KANGASAHO (FI) MARIA KLEIMOLA (FI) ALESSANDRO LABRIOLA (IT) LAETITIA LAFONT (FR) ALEXANDRE LAHYANI (FR) MARÍA LANGARITA (ES) JOHAN LAURE (FR) JENNI LAUTSO (FI) JONATHAN LAZAR (IT) DIANA LEVIN (AT) SAMUEL LLOVET (ES) NICOLAS LOMBARDI (FR) DANIEL LÓPEZ-DÒRIGA (ES) GONZALO JOSE LÓPEZ GARRIDO (ES) JOSÉ MANUEL LÓPEZ UJAQUE (ES) RADIM LOUDA (CZ) LEONARD MA (CA/FI) CLAUDIA MAINARDI (IT)

THE

JULIA MAISCH (DE) LINUS MANNERVIK (SE) MARCIN MARASZEK (PL) PAULINE MARCOMBE (FR) FRANCESCO MARRAS (IT) GUIOMAR MARTÍN DOMÍNGUEZ (ES) LETICIA MARTÍNEZ VELASCO (ES) SEBASTIÁN MARTORELL

ADAPTABLE

MATEO (ES) LUIS MASIÁ MASSONI (ES) MARÍA MESTRE GARCÍA (ES) PAUL MOTLEY (GB) JEANNE MOULLET (FR) JOHAN NAVJORD (SE) LAURA NENONEN (FI) MARIA TERESA NESTÁREZ NARVÁEZ (PE) EMMANUEL NGUYEN (FR) JENS NYBOE ANDERSEN (DK) YVAN OKOTNIKOFF (FR) BRUNO OLIVEIRA (PT) JARRIK OUBURG (NL) ALBERT PALAZON (ES) DANIELE PASIN (IT) HÉCTOR PEINADOR (ES) FERNANDO PEREZ DEL PULGAR MANCEBO (ES) ADRIAN PHIFFER (RO) NICOLÁS

CITY

PINEAU (FR) BARBARA PIONA (IT) NURIA PRIETO GONZÁLEZ (ES) JAKUB PUDO (PL) CLARA RODRÍGUEZ LORENZO (ES) GREGORIO RAMÍREZ VILA (ES) ADRIEN RÉRAT (FR) MARION RHEIN (FR) EMANUELE ROMANI (IT) JORGE A. RUIZ BOLUDA (ES) PAOLO RUSSO (IT) MARIE SALADIN (FR) JUAN MIGUEL SALGADO (ES) BORJA SALLAGO ZAMBRANO (ES) NICOLA

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SCARAMUZZI (IT) FRANZISKA SCHIEFERDECKER (DE) MICHAEL SCHOTT (DE) CLAIRE SÈZE (FR) JORGE SOBEJANO NIETO (ES) JUAN SOCAS (ES) VALERIO SOCCIARELLI (IT) SOFÍA SOLÁNS (ES) THEO STORESUND (SE) MARC TORRAS MONTFORT (ES) VIRVE VÄISÄNEN (FI) TIMOTHY VANAGT (BE) RÉMI VAN DURME (BE) BORIS VAPNÉ (FR) DAVID VECCHI (IT) MORTEN VESTBERG HANSEN (DK) FLORENT VIDALING (FR) LUCIE WEBER (FR) MIGUEL ZABALLA LLANO (ES) CARLOS ZARCO SANZ (ES) KARL ZETTERHOLM (SE)

The Adaptable City / 2
Europan 13 Results
Points of view

This document is available for free download on www.europan-europe.eu. It gathers two types of points of view on the Europan 13 session results on the topic of the Adaptable City.

On the European scale, experts from the Scientific Council and the Technical Committee analyse a selection of rewarded project with regards to the sites issues:
1- How to Integrate Vacant Sites in Urban Development?
2- How to Transform Physical Obstacles into New Connections?
3- How to Use New Inputs to Change Urban Space?
4- How to Create Positive Dynamics from a Difficult Situation?

On the scale of the Europan national structures, members of the juries of Europan Germany, Austria, Kosovo, Belgium, Spain, France, Norway and Portugal give their points of view on the session results in their respective countries.

This collection of about fifteen articles offers a reflexive approach on the session.

A catalogue with these articles and the rewarded projects (winners, runners-up and special mentions) is available for free consultation on the European website www.europan-europe.eu – section E13 Results Catalogue

A printed version of the catalogue is for sale at 37€ on the European website www.europan-europe.eu – section Publications

THE ADAPTABLE CITY / 2
Europan 13 Results

Summary

MAP OF SITES
Europan 13

TRONDHEIM
ØRSTA
SEINÄJOKI
JYVÄSKYLÄ
BERGEN
OS
ESPOO
NACKA
STAVANGER
LUND
LEEUWARDEN
MARL
STREEFKERK
WARSZAWA
GERA
CHARLEROI
LIBRAMONT
BAMBERG
SELB
GOUSSAINVILLE
SAINT-BRIEUC
VERNON
BONDY
METZ
SCHWÄBISCH GMÜND
MONTREUIL
MARNE-LA-VALLÉE
INGOLSTADT
LANDSBERG
LINZ
ST PÖLTEN
FELDAFING
WIEN
MOULINS
BRUCK / MUR
GENÈVE
GRAZ
LA CORRÈZE
A CORUÑA
BORDEAUX
ZAGREB
IRÚN
SANTO TIRSO
GJAKOVA
BARCELONA
BARREIRO
MOLFETTA
AZENHA DO MAR
PALMA

HOW TO INTEGRATE VACANT SITES IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT?

HOW TO TRANSFORM PHYSICAL OBSTACLES INTO NEW CONNECTIONS?

HOW TO USE NEW INPUTS TO CHANGE URBAN SPACE?

HOW TO CREATE POSITIVE DYNAMICS FROM A DIFFICULT SITUATION?

BELGIQUE / BELGIË / BELGIEN
- CHARLEROI
- LIBRAMONT

DEUTSCHLAND
- BAMBERG
- FELDAFING
- GERA
- INGOLSTADT
- LANDSBERG
- MARL
- SCHWÄBISCH GMÜND
- SELB

ESPAÑA
- A CORUÑA
- BARCELONA
- IRÚN
- PALMA

FRANCE
- BONDY
- BORDEAUX
- GOUSSAINVILLE
- LA CORRÈZE
- MARNE-LA-VALLÉE
- METZ
- MONTREUIL
- MOULINS
- SAINT-BRIEUC
- VERNON

HRVATSKA
- ZAGREB

ITALIA
- MOLFETTA

KOSOVO
- GJAKOVA

NEDERLAND
- LEEUWARDEN
- STREEFKERK

NORGE
- BERGEN
- OS
- ØRSTA
- STAVANGER
- TRONDHEIM

ÖSTERREICH
- BRUCK/MUR
- GRAZ
- LINZ
- ST PÖLTEN
- WIEN

POLSKA
- WARSZAWA

PORTUGAL
- AZENHA DO MAR
- BARREIRO
- SANTO TIRSO

SCHWEIZ / SUISSE / SVIZZERA / SVIZRA
- GENÈVE

SUOMI-FINLAND
- ESPOO
- JYVÄSKYLÄ
- SEINÄJOKI

SVERIGE
- LUND
- NACKA

THE ADAPTABLE CITY / 2
Europan 13 Results

EUROPEAN POINTS OF VIEW

8 **DIDIER REBOIS,** architect, teacher at the Paris-la-Villette School of Architecture (FR).
General Secretary of Europan and coordinator of the Scientific Council.

The Project through the Prism of the Adaptable City

The purpose of the European catalogue of results is to reflect the outcome of the Europan 13th session.

Strategies for defining the 21st-century city? A theme and three sub-themes

This session continued the theme of the Europan 12 competition, *The Adaptable City,* applying it in new variations. For Europan, it is important that the processes arising from the competition should do more to involve the actors as protagonists of the project, but in different forms. Urban projects need to be able to evolve over time, so the challenge is to conceive them differently. The trick is to be able to combine the long term – a vision for the future that is necessary for the transformation of a context – with a flexible project that proposes spatial solutions and modes of production that can adapt to a city that is moving, changing, dynamic.

How can we escape from the still prevalent rigid functionalism to produce Europe's cities, while adapting to changes in ways of life and the environment?

Europan uses this thematic as a background to emphasise three sub-themes as questions to the actors and competitors: first, how can the project develop around value as sharing and solidarity?; second, at a time of economic crisis and also of private sector dominance in the production of cities and architecture, how can we devise new ways of organising urban commissions and the actors, that give a greater role to a bottom-up approach? And finally, how can the project concentrate more on the production processes over time than on ready-to-build objects?

Sites and people that are motivated, but looking for pragmatic solutions

49 sites located in cities in 15 European countries were selected around this theme. It is noteworthy that despite a severe crisis in the public finances, Europan found active partners with interesting sites. For the urban players, the notion of adaptability is about the compatibility of spaces to urban practices, but also about integrating unpredictable timeframes into the production of urban projects.

While the objective of the municipal players is still to obtain a vision for the future of their sites, which can form the basis for political choices and will appeal to their constituents, there is also a realistic need for these projects/visions to be embodied in highly practical implementation proposals.

The aim may be to change the image of a site for a transitional period, until conditions are more favourable to fulfilling the full ambitions of the project. Or it may be to find "triggers" that will usher in a first phase of change, with no short-term obligation to implement the full project. And when a more long-term perspective is possible, it is still expected that the projects should, over time, be able to attract potential investors.

In the catalogue, these sites are presented alongside an interview with a local representative who explains the municipality's goals.

Experimental projects proposing a mix of realism and innovation

For the competitors, therefore, the task was to carry out the complex exercise of conceiving projects that combine a vision for the future, innovation in the project design process and pragmatism in implementation. Naturally, different interpretations emerge in the responses, but the juries were keen to choose winning teams that were proposing innovative project practices around one main question: how to reconcile the need to define spaces able to adapt to perpetually changing uses and practices?

The winning proposals that this article wishes to explore are those that propose changes in professional practices and challenge the traditional role of the architect. It will draw on the projects themselves, but will also cite the

1 - LEEUWARDEN (NL), RUNNER-UP - URBAN PRESCRIPTIONS > SEE CATALOGUE P.48
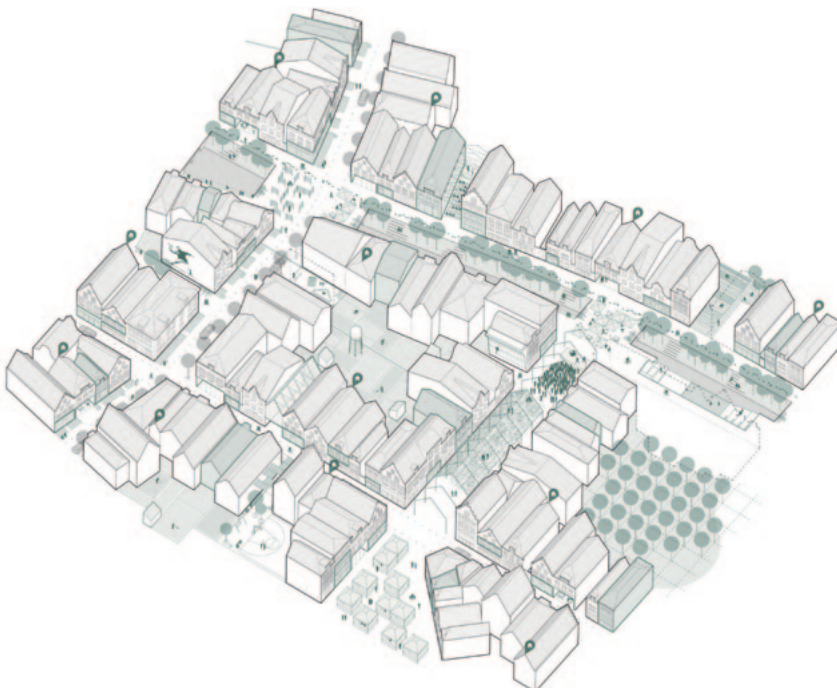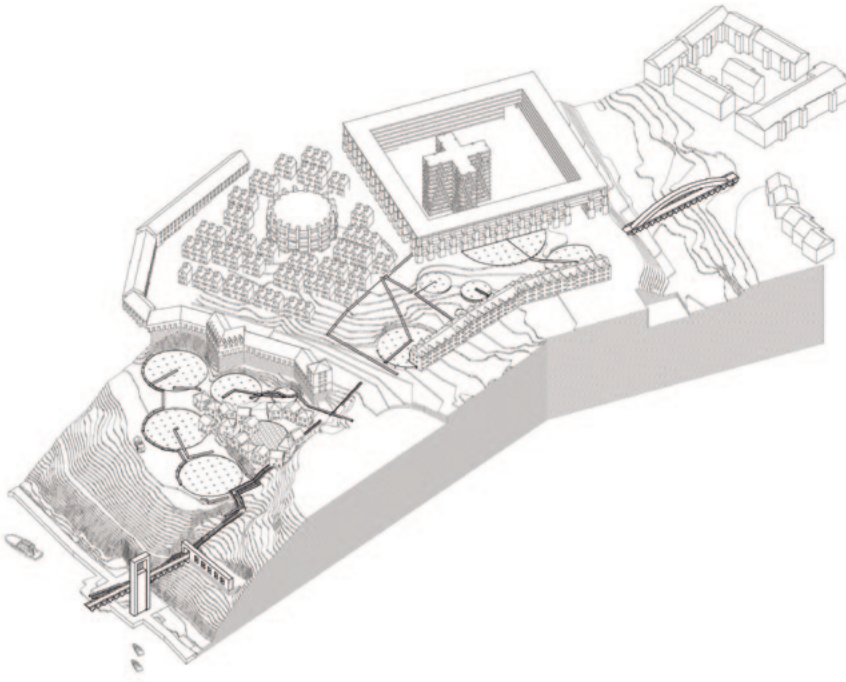
2 - NACKA (SE), RUNNER-UP - THE ENDS OF THE CITY > SEE CATALOGUE P.56

post-competition interviews conducted by Europan Europe with the winning teams about their positions on the question of adaptability and the way it is tackled in their projects.

The project as a lasting urban form that accommodates changing uses

Some of the winning teams argue that urban form and architecture are enduring factors. For them, the challenge is to reuse stable typologies that can adapt to new uses. In some cases, this means harmonising with the existing refurbished urban fabric; in others it means creating new building forms designed to last. Only the uses change with time and the city has a permanent dimension capable of absorbing these changes without its structure and its spaces being affected.

The title of the runner-up project in Leeuwarden (NL), *Urban Prescriptions* (fig.1), puts its cards on the table. The challenges are to reclaim built-up plots in a historical fabric and to introduce a new program into a former museum site. For the team, this means reconciling respect for the existing qualities and adaptability, i.e. a change in program. The team proposes to reinforce the public spaces in the block through small-scale micro-interventions that will render it adaptable without fundamental alteration. "We believe that the city of the future will not significantly change, it will just be used differently." In this restored urban structure,

the team proposes to convert courtyards into eco-productive areas: water will be returned to the abandoned channels, temporary uses will be proposed for vacant areas and convertible public spaces will be created. However, this intervention leaves open the integration –in the long term– of future uses, which will need to be agreed with residents.

This same standpoint is found in teams that are not working on an existing fabric, but on a future new neighbourhood, linked with a perception of the nearby fabric. "The contemporary city is not one but several places. It is a complex structure, multilayered, varied, made up of complementary and interconnected ideas, concepts and systems," according to the runner-up team on the Nacka site (SE),*The Ends of the City* (fig.2). "It is time to rethink urban form as a factor of resilience, rather than something futile that demands constant rehabilitation." On a riverside

industrial storage site, the team proposes to build a new urban form, sharply defined by large buildings that form juxtaposed urban signals. However, these big architectures are designed to be flexible and to accommodate to changing uses. For example, the floors can host different functions and the programs can be converted from housing to workplaces. The lasting object-project cannot be separated from the process whereby it is reused.

In Barreiro (PT), with *Between the Lines* (fig.3), the winning team adopts exactly the same attitude in another architectural style. It compacts lines of buildings that resonate with the landscape as large structural units onsite. These lines are nevertheless "sufficiently flexible to accommodate the needs and desires of the potential users and self-organized initiatives".

3 - BARREIRO (PT), WINNER - BETWEEN THE LINES > SEE CATALOGUE P.27

4 - GRAZ (AT), WINNER - WALZER > SEE CATALOGUE P.87

5 - INGOLSTADT (DE), WINNER - WALDSTRASSE > SEE CATALOGUE P.89

The winning team in Graz (AT), *Walzer* (fig.4), also starts with the idea that "buildings generally live longer than the programs for which they were designed. That is why we propose an adaptable structure that can accommodate the current program, but also possible future adaptations." Their design for the station site is a structure that is massive and unitary but, for protection from railway noise, is built around large interior squares. And this assumes certain specific spatial arrangements to allow changes of use.

This position is a renewed version of a fairly traditional attitude in the culture of the European city: it had been revived in the 1980s with the return of the city as a matrix around the same slogan – "The city doesn't change, only uses change."

The public space project as a framework for construction over time

Other winning teams are also looking for a potentially unifying structure, but exclusively through public space rather than buildings which, in their view, do not follow the same timeframes. For them, the public dimension of the city is what can be defined and controlled over time, whereas buildings – which relate more to the private sphere – are less easy to program and are more arbitrarily embedded in time.

The winning team in Ingolstadt (DE), *Waldstrasse* (fig.5), clearly states it: the first priority is public space, with the aim of maximising the character of the Northern half of the town. Their idea is that public policies and structures should implement and manage such a program. To this end, the team proposes a series of 5 strategies and 25 initiatives to form the framework for a clearly planned decision-making timetable. From urban-scale parks to interior courtyards, this is a global strategy on public space entailing a non-linear implementation process. It is this

6 - SCHWÄBISCH GMÜND (DE), RUNNER-UP - CREATIVE CITY > SEE CATALOGUE P.165

strategy that will decide how the construction programs will be realised.

In Schwäbisch Gmünd (DE), the runner-up team with its *Creative City* (fig.6) project also largely concentrates on public space, noting the lack of pedestrian streets and space that the inhabitants can share in this modern part of the city. The team conducts a close analysis of possible programs to develop new ways of life through specific building interventions (housing, boarding houses, social centres, cultural foundations). However, all these programs will be linked by a participatory public space with citizen involvement, which allows implementation to be spread across different sites and over the long term.

In Molfetta (IT), a city seeking to rehabilitate its seafront, the runner-up team, *Molfetta, terra e mare* (fig.7), proposes "activity points that can be realised over time..." and it is the outcome of the first operations "that will make it possible to build a promenade as a link". It will be this public space –an urban promenade

reconnecting city and sea– that will act as a backbone to ensure the coherence of an urban space that is at present highly fragmented.

It is interesting to see, in these young teams, such confidence in the existence of an urban public service and political officials capable of

sustaining a long-term development project in their use public space as a fairly rapid way to provide urban coherence. This raises the question, jokingly asked by the winning team in Ingolstadt whether: "Wouldn't this be too much work for the politicians?…"

7 - MOLFETTA (IT), RUNNER-UP - MOLFETTA, TERRA E MARE > SEE CATALOGUE P.154
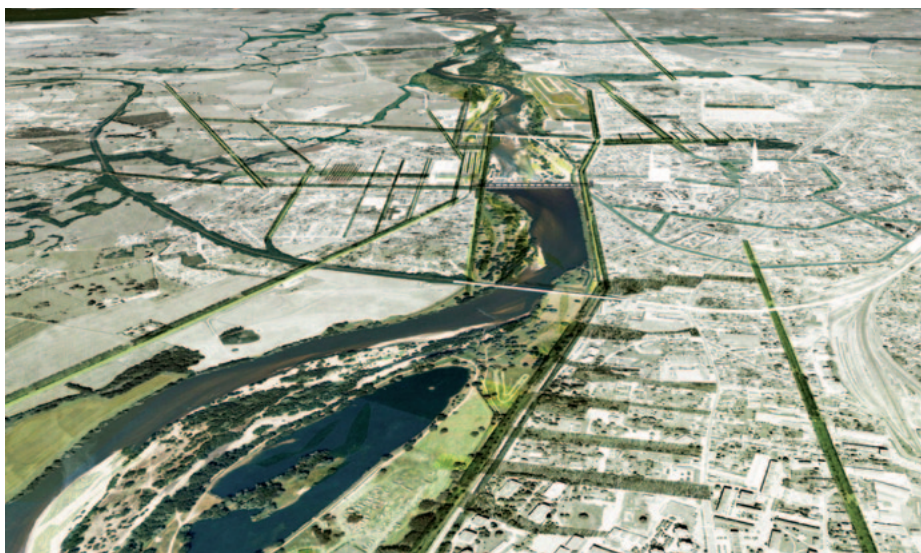
8 - MOULINS (FR), WINNER - THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION > SEE CATALOGUE P.103

The ecological project associating the long term of the territory and the short term of the development

The winning project in Moulins (FR), *The Theory of Evolution* (fig.8), conceptualises this double temporality as they gather reflections from Natural Sciences, through which concepts of Adaptability, Transformation, Evolution, etc. are developed, around one question: "How do living species evolve and guarantee their survival facing modifications of their environments?" If Darwin and Lamarck answer the question in an opposite way, the team
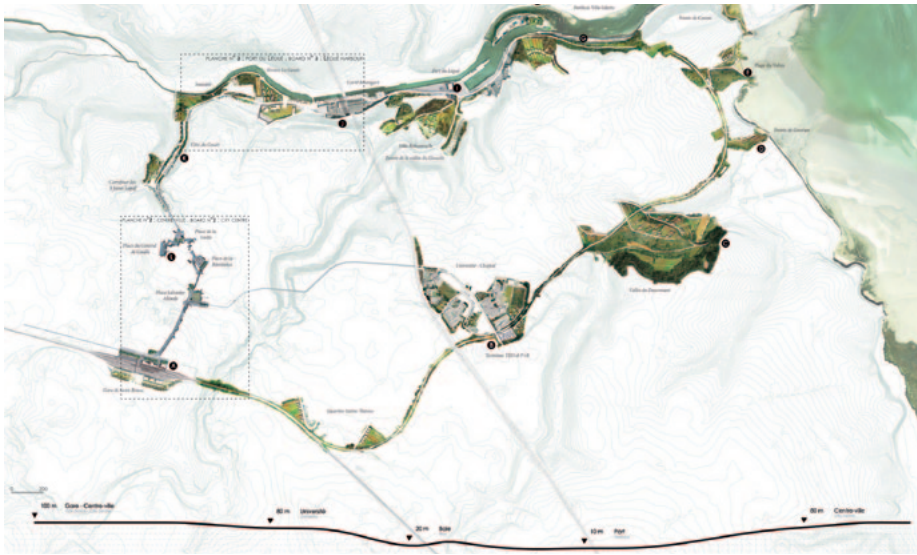
9 - SAINT-BRIEUC (FR), WINNER - SEASIDE BOULEVARD > SEE CATALOGUE P.116

nevertheless argues that both doctrines prove to be complementary for the urban project on sites with a higher natural value. The team considers that the reflection on such a site – located around a river with contrasting banks, one urban and the other mainly landscaped– should include the long term of the territory: the slow evolution of the Allier River, bridge lines, floods, dikes and floodplains act as a network of elements structuring the project. Still, faster development linked to "urban economy as well as the values of the parcels and the rents" should not be forgotten. This reflection creates a double temporality implying the association of expertises in terms of project: the one of the landscaper, working on the long-term, topography, hydrography, geology and ground characteristics, and the faster evolution of the city. One of both runner-up teams in Saint-Brieuc (FR), *Seaside Boulevard* (fig.9), is also confronted to a territory of natural valleys around which the city developed and the topography of which allowed the preservation of the urban development. Just like in Moulins, the team proposes a double scale: the long-term, creating a natural boulevard as a matrix following the abandoned railway; and the short-term, implementing projects to open up potential sites for development and "the installation of new programs as innovative initiatives."

The runner-up project in St Pölten (AT), *Ju(MP) in the Water - Kiss That Frog* (fig.10), lies as well on the creation of an environmental system through a structure that is defined by water, as a large-scale grid capable of integrating different architectures and programs. It is "a new urban model that develops in time phases and is structured on water lines and basins", as well as "a new vision of public space that puts everyday life into direct contact with nature".

Masterplan / project versus acupuncture / project?

Among the teams which believe that public intervention is essential to maintain the long-term coherence of the urban project, a few accept the idea of a masterplan. Nothing reprehensible in that! But the question is how to maintain adherence to a plan that will prescribe urban form and guarantee its implementation piece by piece over time?
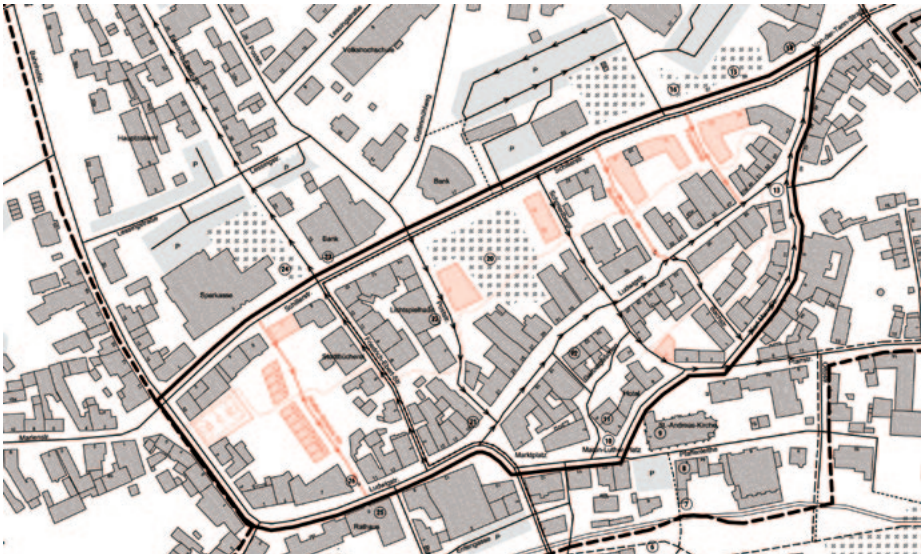
In any case, this is the wager of the runner-up team in Selb (DE), *Round the Corner* (fig.11), which proposes "a systematic approach based on a strong new masterplan…" Working in a town that has shrunk as a result of industrial decline and is looking to regenerate its central nucleus, the team wants to stabilise the form of a town-centre district through a "process of urban consolidation, by eliminating infrastructural barriers and creating urban places". However, since the

project cannot be implemented in one go, the team proposes that it should start with a regulatory structure and "seek to adapt to opportunities through flexible phasing". Can the town's urban planning department stick to this proposal and guarantee to take the project forward over time? In any case, after Europan 9 it had already introduced with the winning team Gutiérrez-delaFuente Arquitectos an acupunctural approach to amenities and housing in the town.

At the opposite extreme from the creation of a masterplan is the *Colonization of the City Centre* (fig.12) winning project in Gera, another municipality experiencing downgrowth. The team proposes reinforcing a large marginal space in the heart of the town centre, by a process of colonisation based not on a plan, but on an acupunctural approach that revitalises an existing area by injecting new uses. "As the town has a limited budget to invest in urban development, our project's concept is based on the idea of developing

10 - ST PÖLTEN (AT), WINNER - JU(MP) IN THE WATER - KISS THAT FROG > SEE CATALOGUE P.171

Phase 1
Phase 2
Phase 3

this district sector by sector, in constant collaboration with its residents." The team proposes beginning with the construction of three buildings, followed by the injection of temporary uses such as container garages, private gardens, play areas, and open-air cinema and a Biergarten (open-air bar), which will occupy the space until more substantial programs can be implemented. It is a tribute to slowness which, around a "starter" urban project, proposes that the next steps should be explored in collaboration with citizens.

Between two project strategies that operate in similar contexts and in the vacancy of the urban fabric, it is interesting to consider which approach to adopt: long-term control through a masterplan or a more open system in which the eventual outcome is not known in advance. This difference in method is a good example of the diversity of ways in which the winning teams seek to manage adaptability.

The project that emerges from the existing physical and human fabric

Many teams reject the idea of arbitrarily planning new structures or objects on the sites. They consider that these sites have a history, both in physical space, but also in practices. And they think that the attempt to revitalise these often peripheral areas requires respect for what is already there. For some, therefore, the outline of the project emerges from a meticulous analysis of this existing state.

The runner-up team in Gjakova (KO), *Caravanserais* (fig.13), is radical in this respect. The diagnosis of a changing urban situation –the riverside areas– accounts for 95% of the conceptual work. This diagnosis, which brings familiarity with the minute details of both spaces and practices, forms the basis of micro-interventions intended to reinforce the urban structure and the identity of the place as a social value.
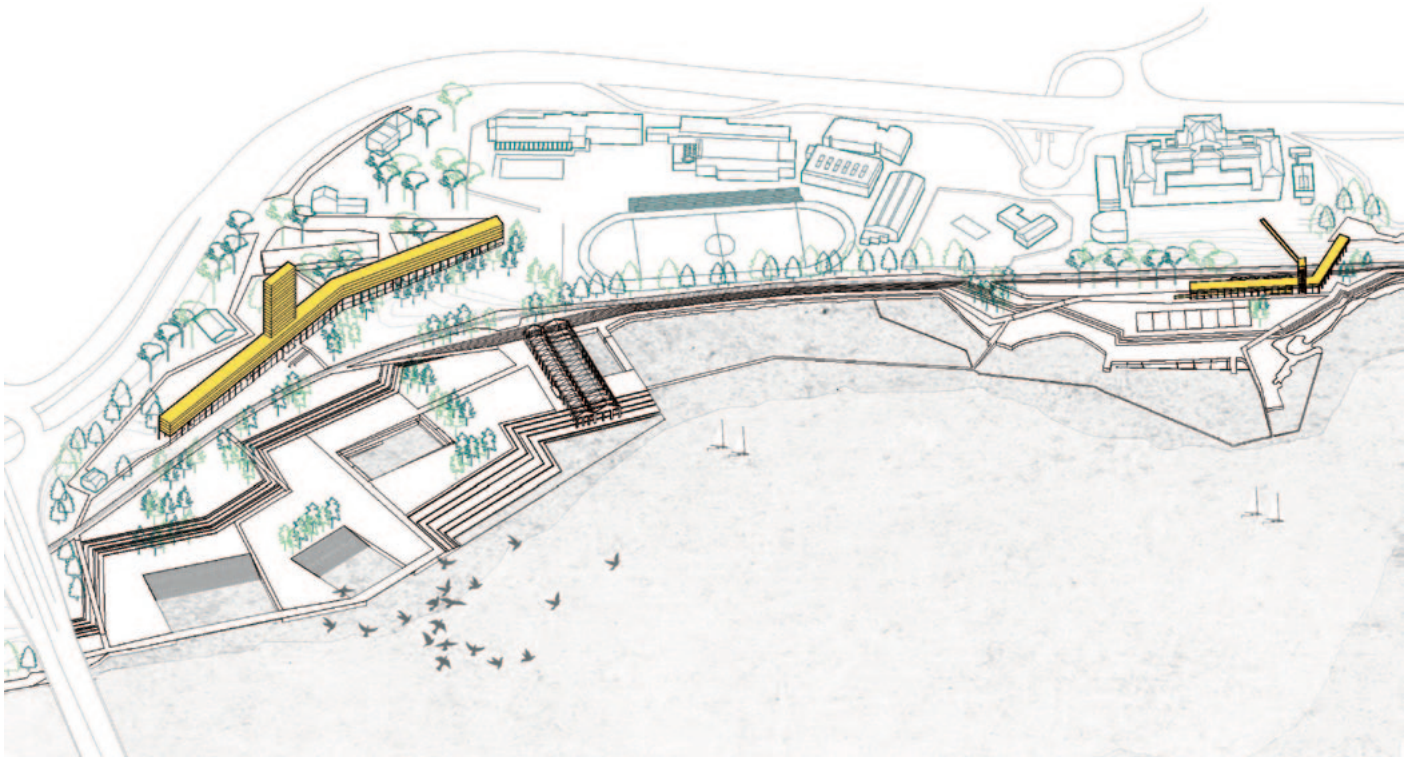
14 - A CORUÑA (ES), RUNNER-UP - EMBROIDERING THE EDGE > SEE CATALOGUE P.76
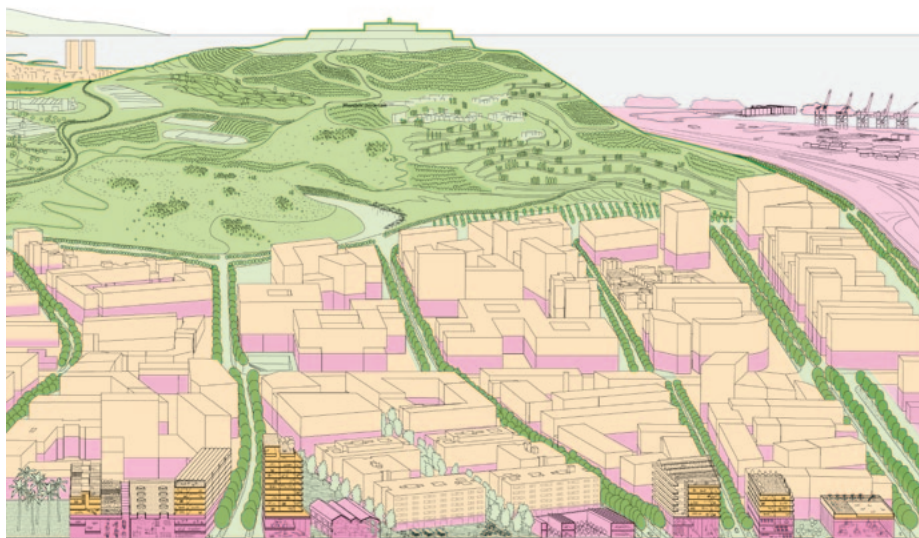
15 - BARCELONA (ES), RUNNER-UP - SUSTAINABLE INTERFACE > SEE CATALOGUE P.205

16 - CHARLEROI (BE), RUNNER-UP - MAKING ROOM FOR GILLY > SEE CATALOGUE P.211

The runner-up project in A Coruña (ES), *Embroidering the Edge* (fig.14), proposes a remodelling of the seafront. For the team, the principles of adaptability and self-organization relate to the idea of revealing the values of the place and drawing on them to define a new future. To achieve this, it emphasises the importance of the place, of morphology, of perception and evolution, involving human beings as both inhabitants and makers of their environment. The goal, as Cedric Price called for in architecture, is prevention rather than cure.

In Barcelona (ES), the runner-up project, *Sustainable Interface* (fig.15), as a follow-on from the same team's earlier Europan 12 winning project, begins with a meticulous study of the site with the aim of detecting the possibilities of introducing flexibility of uses over time and maintaining a reversibility that will allow the site to return to its original state. Their goal is to introduce into the existing fabric production spaces and activities that are compatible with housing. They devise typologies capable of accommodating such a mix: "active plinths" (productive and commercial spaces) that sustain "lively emergences" (housing, offices, hotels).

Finally, the runner-up project in Charleroi (BE), *Making Room for Gilly* (fig.16), starts with the layered urban structure of this slightly obsolete district as an opportunity to develop flexible buildings capable of defining public space. With this gradual process, anchored in the existing fabric, the project aims to transform the site over time, in keeping with its users' needs.
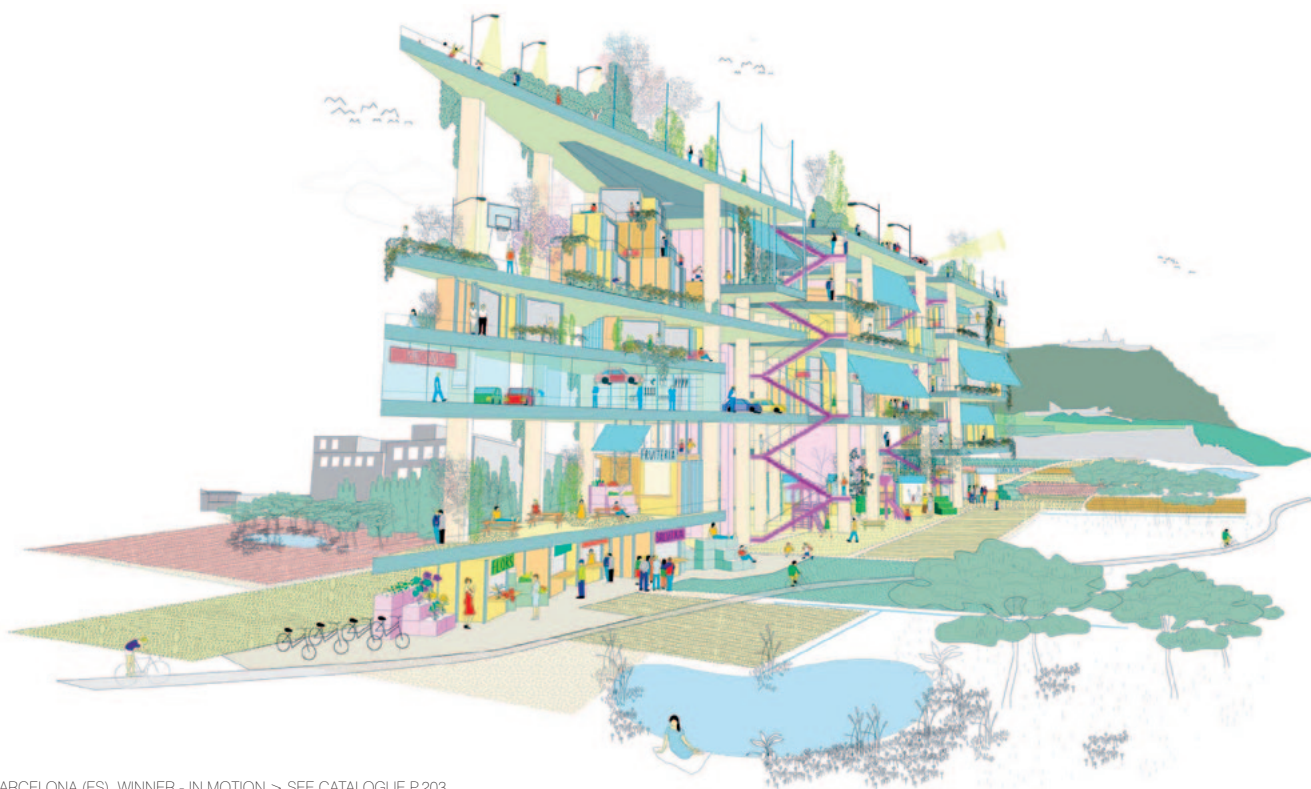
The project as a flexible strategy, adaptable to varying uses

Some winning teams refuse to predefine a global physical structure capable of accommodating flexible uses, because they think that these forms can no longer accommodate to changes in the city. They prefer to propose a flexible strategy, as a system that would itself be able to adapt to changing uses.

Typical of this attitude is the winning team in Barcelona (ES), *In Motion* (fig.17)*,* which takes the view that the adaptable city requires strategies for constructions where "the built fabric is no longer a fixed element, but a group of heterogeneous elements with different degrees of change". On an industrial site slated for conversion, they see the priority as being able to accommodate to movement by introducing new strategies that combine adaptability, self-sufficient systems, an eco-systemic perspective and a social approach to housing. The architecture itself must be able to adjust rapidly to keep pace with changing uses.

In Santo Tirso (PT), the runner-up team, *3tirsolines* (fig.18), proposes a project that is able to adapt to the needs of the local population by creating a flexible strategy around 3 lines: a connective green axis; a renovated market that becomes public space; increased building density to encourage the influx of new inhabitants and activities. Their project is not a finished form, but a strategy based around principles and that must be capable of adapting to real needs at any time. It is conceived more as a "system of working that involves several urban agents choosing between different activities and actions".
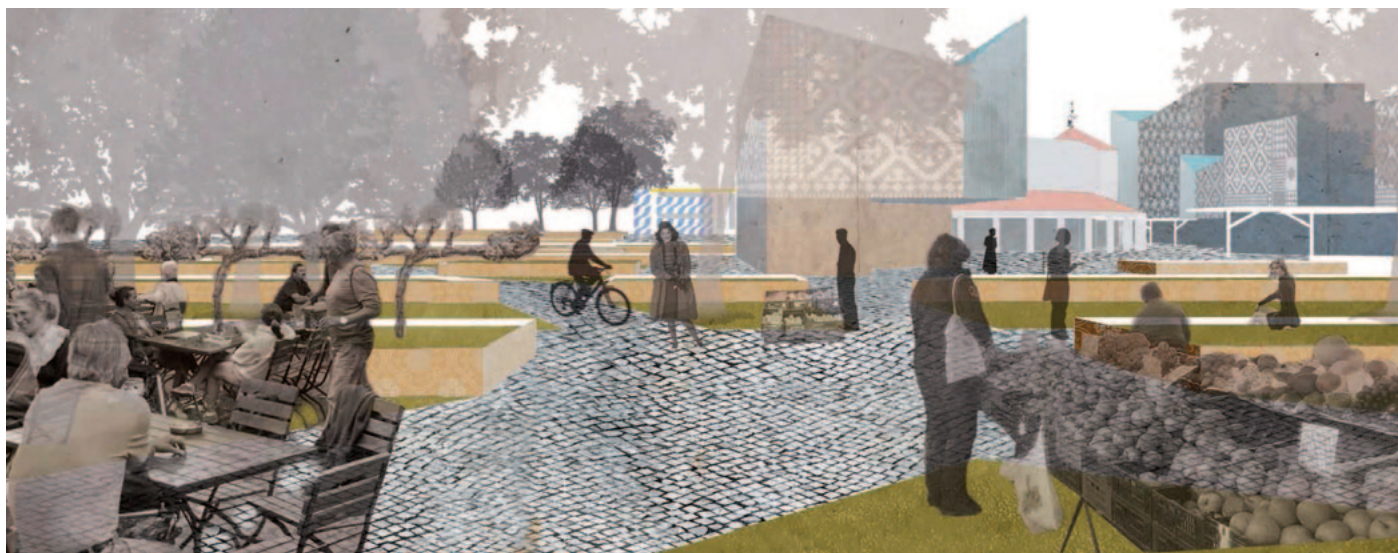
In Zagreb (HR), the winning team, *Swap on the River* (fig.19), proposes a flexible strategy that activates the site "by injecting temporary programs and creating ephemeral realities". The aim is to activate the riverbanks as an area for leisure and events. Their approach is to implement a project mechanism that allows changes and adaptations.

The process-project: negotiated uses and actor interactions

Some teams, adopting a similar attitude also based on flexible strategies, assume the role of tacticians, making the project a nexus of actor interactions and negotiated uses.

The project is less formalised, the vision of the future no doubt less defined, but the project is permanently negotiated around responses to change and precise urban goals, without the

precise outcome of the process necessarily being known in advance.

For example, *Bondy's Count* (fig.20), the winning project in Bondy (FR), is conceived around actions that invite the local economic actors and users to play a role in the site's transformation. This site, well positioned along the Canal de l'Ourcq on the way out of Paris, is at present essentially an area of commercial activities and the brief is to make it compatible with business and residential activities. To achieve this, partial rearrangements of the plot structures have to be negotiated with the economic players, so that new uses can be introduced while still improving the commercial dynamic. "We consider the process-project as

a set of negotiations in which, in the long term, investors, city dwellers and residents are the future protagonists."

In Metz (FR), on the site of an abandoned former airport, the goal is to attract activities that will replace the old function with new dynamism. The runner-up project, *Cycles-Sol-Air* (fig.21), tries to incorporate each part of the program into "a redevelopment strategy for the former airport based on a balanced and inclusive process-project, which will benefit everyone while integrating the existing activities and neighbourhoods". It proposes testing functions with the participation of the users and conceiving a process that adapts over time. "Adaptability is inherent to an approach
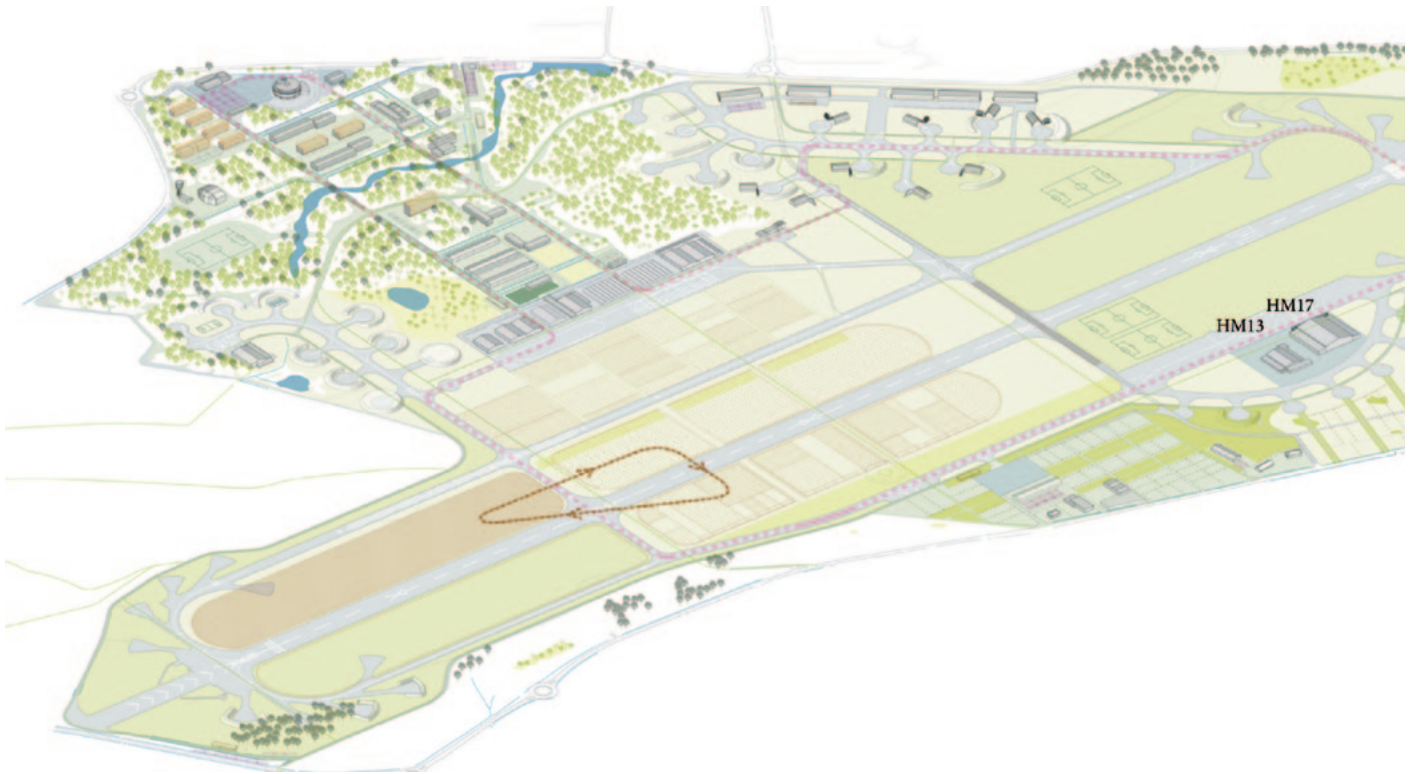
21 - METZ (FR), RUNNER-UP - CYCLES-SOL-AIR > SEE CATALOGUE P.53

of this kind: self-organization, sharing and participatory projects are an integral part of the strategy" and should drive a bottom-up process.

Finally, the runner-up project in Trondheim (NO), *More Trondheim!* (fig.22), takes the same approach in its plan to revitalise a still functioning brewery by adding other programs based around public activities and leisure. For them, the theme of adaptability reflects the needs of the site: "Working with strategies that are both programmatic and spatial and can develop over time, rather than proposing a finished masterplan." And it is these well-defined strategies which "form a solid framework that will enable different things to take shape, depending on increases in prices and mortgage rates, demographic segregation and economic groups".

This catalogue recording the results of the Europan 13 session provides a way for readers to find their way through the multiplicity of sites and winning projects, based on a presentation around the session's four big themes, each introduced by an article by one or two experts which seeks to offer an interpretative framework.

22 - TRONDHEIM (NO), RUNNER-UP - MORE TRONDHEIM! > SEE CATALOGUE P.180

HOW TO INTEGRATE VACANT SITES IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT?

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Rediscoveries - Of Modern Myths and Ancient Memories

"As to your Newton, I confess I do not understand his void and his gravity; I admit he has demonstrated the movement of the heavenly bodies with more exactitude than his forerunners; but you will admit it is an absurdity to maintain the existence of Nothing."

FREDERICK THE GREAT, KING IN PRUSSIA,
IN A LETTER TO VOLTAIRE, NOV. 25, 1777

Berlin. Thinking of vacancy in an urban context, it is my city that first comes to my mind. Berlin has been the capital of voids, at least for the last fifty years, if we consider them as missing parts in a city's fabric, clearly identifiable "other" spaces, open, free, full of generosity and unexplored possibilities (fig.1). Here, in the mythic home of space pioneers and temporary activations, a role model for almost all sorts of voids could be found, smaller or larger, voluntary or by inadvertence, poetic or violent. Berlin, mon amour.

Historically, the larger urban unbuilt areas in Berlin are, due to its polycentric structure, forming gaps or areas reserved for particular purposes between them. World War II changed the face of the city, causing multiple scratches and broken teeth, wounds and missing links. From the numerous open plots that have not

been rebuild after the evacuation of the debris of war to the large voids visible in its centre until recently, the sensation of openness and unfinished characterise the city as a "Stadtlandschaft", a city-landscape, made of discontinuities, sudden shifts of spatial perception and large interior perspectives. Looking at these urban voids, retracing their history, their appearance and later fill up –or not–, the debates and controversies around them, there are three recent case-studies as archetypes of voids. Their nature has been transformed in the last 25 years, due to changes in economy, governance or society. None of these reasons have been unique, it has always been a juxtaposition of different influences that made these voids change their affectation, also according to unexpected occasions, change of moods or political upheavals. Their fate could also be seen as a coming-of-age story, where the previously young and rude city becomes mature, covering the scars of an excessive and exhausting youth by the unified cardboard-like scenery, turning an uncertain yet identifiable smile into a hollow grin, or, as an opposite posture, exposing the cracks and wrinkles in a fragile wink. *Nostalgia burns in the hearts of the strongest.*

Potsdamer Platz, the former economic centre and going-out venue in the heart of the city, was demolished in the war and abandoned during the Cold War due to the construction of the wall in its centre (fig.2-3). The decision to recover the place was driven by economic interests; it was rebuilt very soon after the fall of the Berlin Wall "as if nothing had happened", according to the urban dogma of the "critical reconstruction", with the notable exception of some moderate towers. There was no public debate, the pressure was too high. The result is well known, the former void has disappeared, replaced by the globally accepted mix of fashion brands, coffee shops and urban entertainment, masked by what Charles Jencks qualified as "trophy buildings of the worst kind", the botoxed face of global capitalist architecture. *Someone shot nostalgia in the back.*

The park Gleisdreieck (fig.4.) is a younger example of the transformation of a vacant site inside the city. A former railyard right in the South of Potsdamer Platz, it was abandoned for many years, pioneer plants took over the site making it almost inaccessible. The shift of the ownership from the railway company to the city of Berlin and the development of Potsdamer Platz made it possible to realise a new park on the site. The constructions needed an ecological compensation in terms of unsealed surfaces, and there was a large public demand for green spaces. The discussions between the developers and the inhabitants were tough, finally a compromise was found and it was decided to redefine the borders by new constructions, also meant to balance the costs for the park.

The third, most recent and probably trend-setting vacant site is the former airport Tempelhof (fig.5), a huge open space in the middle of densely populated housing areas. Constructed in the National Socialist era as "central airport", it was used by the American army during the Berlin airlift shortly after the war, and then again it served as civil airport until 2008. Over the years, the discussion about

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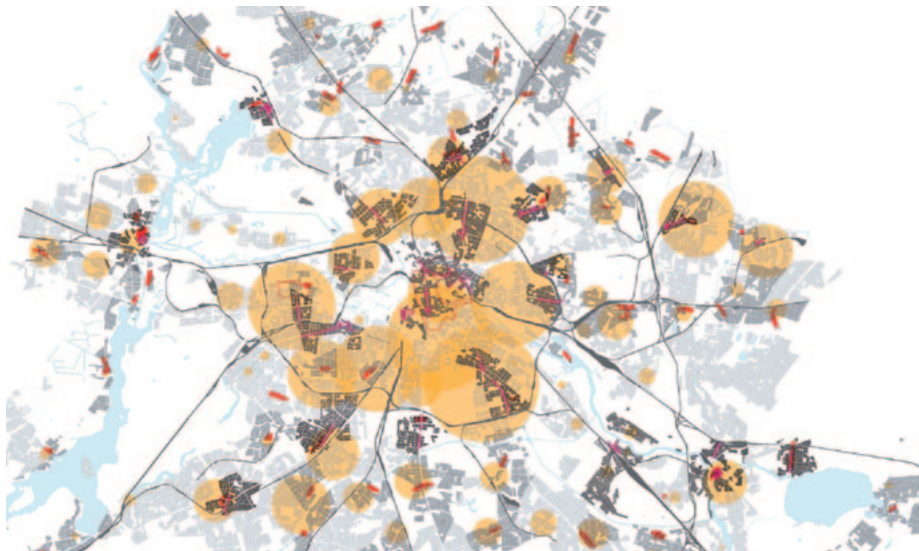
2 - 3 - BERLIN - POSTDAMERPLATZ CROSSED BY THE WALL AND REBUILT
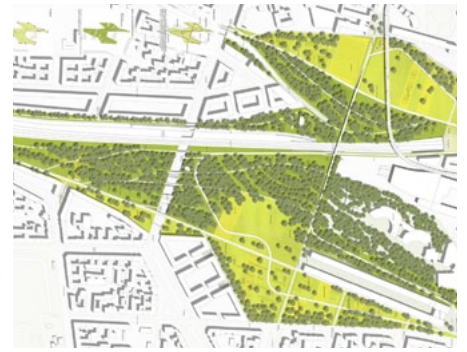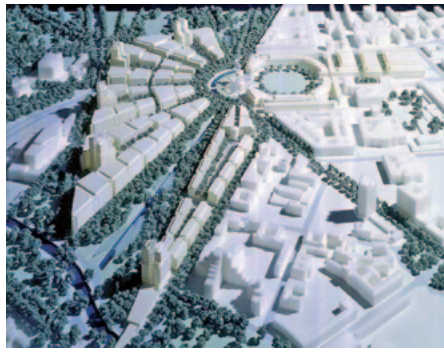
4 - BERLIN - NEW PARK GLEISDREIECK

5 - BERLIN - AIRPORT TEMPELHOF TRANSFORMED INTO A PARK

its future never stopped, different scenarios were developed, but the city and the architects never managed to convince the public opinion. A referendum was held, opposing the official plan to build at the margins, and a citizens' initiative to not build anything. After the never-ending story of the construction of the new Berlin airport, the posters with the bored face of the mayor and the question: "Would you confide another airport to this man?" put the final nail in the coffin of both the plans for urbanisation and the political career of the city's commander-in-chief. Now, the situation is blocked, in times when there is a need for both housing and qualified public space, the field has neither equipment nor any services, as no construction at all is allowed. A disaster in communication, a Waterloo for urban planning and a cautionary tale for the power of BANANA – Built Absolutely Nothing Near Anything Nor Anyone.

Filled, framed or faded. Three examples, in the course of a few years, which show an altered position regarding urban voids and the decision-making processes, but also reflecting profound changes in economy, the modalities of governance or societal conventions. In having a close look at the sites, although very different in scale and location, they are unified by the search for a new destiny in urban development. Blind spots, wastelands, no man's lands, leftover spaces… they are in need of full adaptation. These spaces are far too large to be simply weaved with the surrounding fabric or filled up with known structures. With reference to authorship, Michel Foucault has shown which conclusions can be drawn from methods, narrative structures and representations of plans regarding forms of authority and decision-making processes. Interpreted in this way, the panorama of sites reveals itself as a mirror of current debates on urbanity.

Reconnections

Some of the vacant sites basically need a reconnection with their surroundings, tightening the loose fabric and redefining a closer relationship with natural elements. This is especially the case of the sites connected to water, whether lake or river, as the city offers a façade with transversal, visual or physical connections.

In Nacka (SE), the site right on the shoreline was inaccessible for more than 50 years, due to its occupation with oil cisterns (fig.6). Today, it is waiting to be rediscovered, offering a dramatic setting and immediate access to a natural reserve. An infrastructural hub at the river Tagus in Barreiro (PT) will be obsolete in the near future due to the construction of a new bridge (fig.7). This gives the city the unique occasion to promote a new centrality, combining elements of the built heritage and landscape features with additional activities. The site in Bergen (NO) has a beautiful natural setting close to a lake and a river at the edge of the city centre (fig.8). The brief did not only ask for a diverse urban neighbourhood and innovative models of collective housing as pilot projects, but interestingly also for new forms of property and the appropriate governance. The city of Zagreb (HR) proposes a reflection area of several kilometres along the banks of the river Sava, with four specific sites for possible scenarios inside this large perimeter (fig.9). A very contemporary situation familiar to many European cities, a sort of waiting time until further decisions, filled with temporary public occupations.

6 - NACKA (SE)

7 - BARREIRO (PT)

8 - BERGEN (NO)

9 - ZAGREB (HR)

Reinterpretations

Other sites do not simply need to be reconnected, but rather reinterpreted, as the former programs have been removed while the structures –buildings or urban fabric– are still in place, forming different kinds of heritage. Here, the task was to attract new users, intensify urbanity and find out what kind of infill could give sense to these current urban voids. Additionally, the question
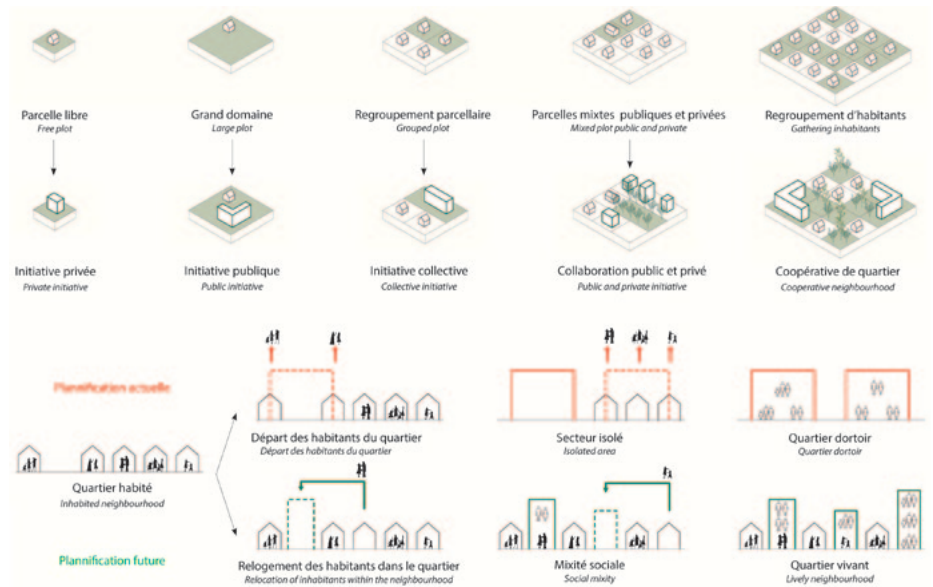
10 - BORDEAUX (FR)

11 - LEEUWARDEN (NL)

12 - GENÈVE (CH)

13 - FELDAFING (DE)

14 - METZ (FR)

15 - GENÈVE (CH), WINNER - LA VILLE INTERMÉDIAIRE > SEE CATALOGUE P.43

of governance was raised, in how far the changes in economy and society could give way to new forms of management, implying both private and public actors.

The site in Bordeaux (FR) comprises a listed historical fire station built at the beginning of the 1950's (fig.10). Its future is part of the mutation of the whole Garonne Eiffel sector, and the challenge is to deal with the tension between the heritage and additional new programs and to organise the subsequent realisation process. As in many other European towns and cities, the city centre of Leeuwarden (NL) has undergone a transformation, both in terms of use and infrastructure (fig.11). More and more retail outlets are going out of business, leading to vacancies and deterioration. The city needs a strategic solution to the decline of the threshold areas leading to the main locations in the centre, intervening both in public space and inside the buildings. In Genève (CH), the proposed site is part of a suburban fabric made of small plots owned by a multitude of private landowners (fig.12). Recent densification processes led to a patchwork of small development projects, without any overall urban project or coordinated land-use strategy. Therefore, the brief asked for a method to structure the future urban design, a flexible pattern that allows adaptation to different situations.

Reinventions

A third group of sites comprises former military areas liberated by the Europe-wide reorganisation of military forces and their concentration on fewer and smaller sites, finally a movement of economy. These "olive fields" offer interesting development perspectives for the cities, as the former enclaves are part of the urban agglomerations from now on; nevertheless these out-of-scale territories have to be reinvented in almost all possible fields, from program to structure.

The military training campus right in the South of the village of Feldafing (DE) was originally built as an elite school for the National Socialists in an idyllic location next to a lake (fig.13). Today, several identical buildings in alpine style still remain on the site as testimonials of the sinister past, and the main task was to propose a reorganisation of the site in different zones, allowing for a flexible and differentiated development. BA128 in Metz (FR), a former military airbase, has a mind-blowing scale; it needs to be gradually converted by a long-term process, incorporating multiple uses (fig.14). A remarkable demand in the brief was the conception of new ways of constructing and managing projects, which aimed to foster the emergence of local initiatives, including a wide variety of potential partners.

Toolkits and catalogues

The proposals discuss contemporary questions of urban forms –light city Vs. condensed city, village Vs. suburbia–; in short, the question of urbanity and how to achieve it. Finally, it is about "human beings creating volumes", as stated Swedish jury member Rolo Fütterer during the debates at the Europan 13 Forum of Cities and Juries in Bratislava (SK). By deconstructing the projects, their proposed methodology and their visual presentation, a number of comparable approaches appears, in terms of strategy, expression and proposed programmatic keys, always in search for concepts that overcome the specific problematic on-site and give a more general, conceptual vision.

A number of winning entries proposes collections of possibilities, prototypes for the occupation of spaces, as models that could subsequently be adapted to the specific situation. The design itself is often random, a square or a circle with people gathering around, occasionally named forum, agora, stage or plaza. Some of them appear as pure demonstrations of ill-conceived lists of possible interventions, while others try not only to establish toolkits and catalogues, but also aim to create an intelligent overlapping of ubiquitous spatial arrangements and the local context.
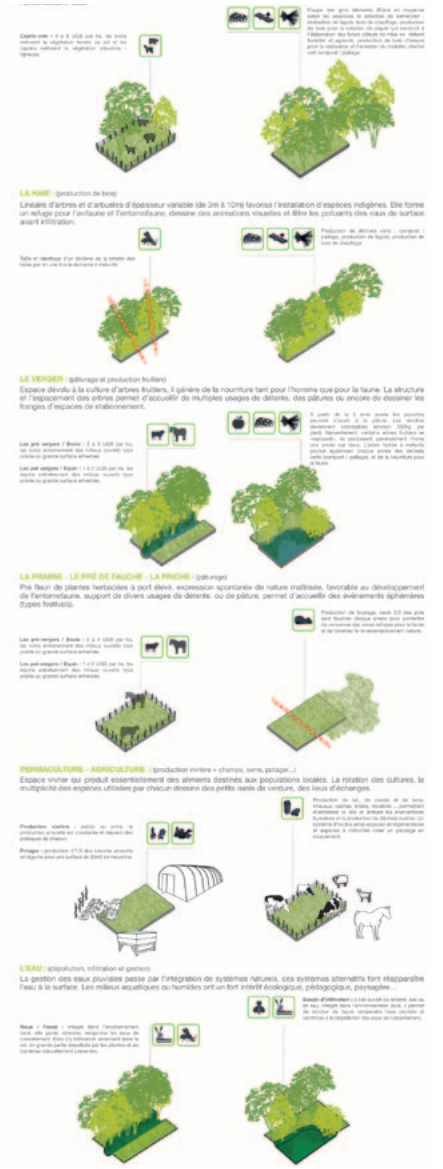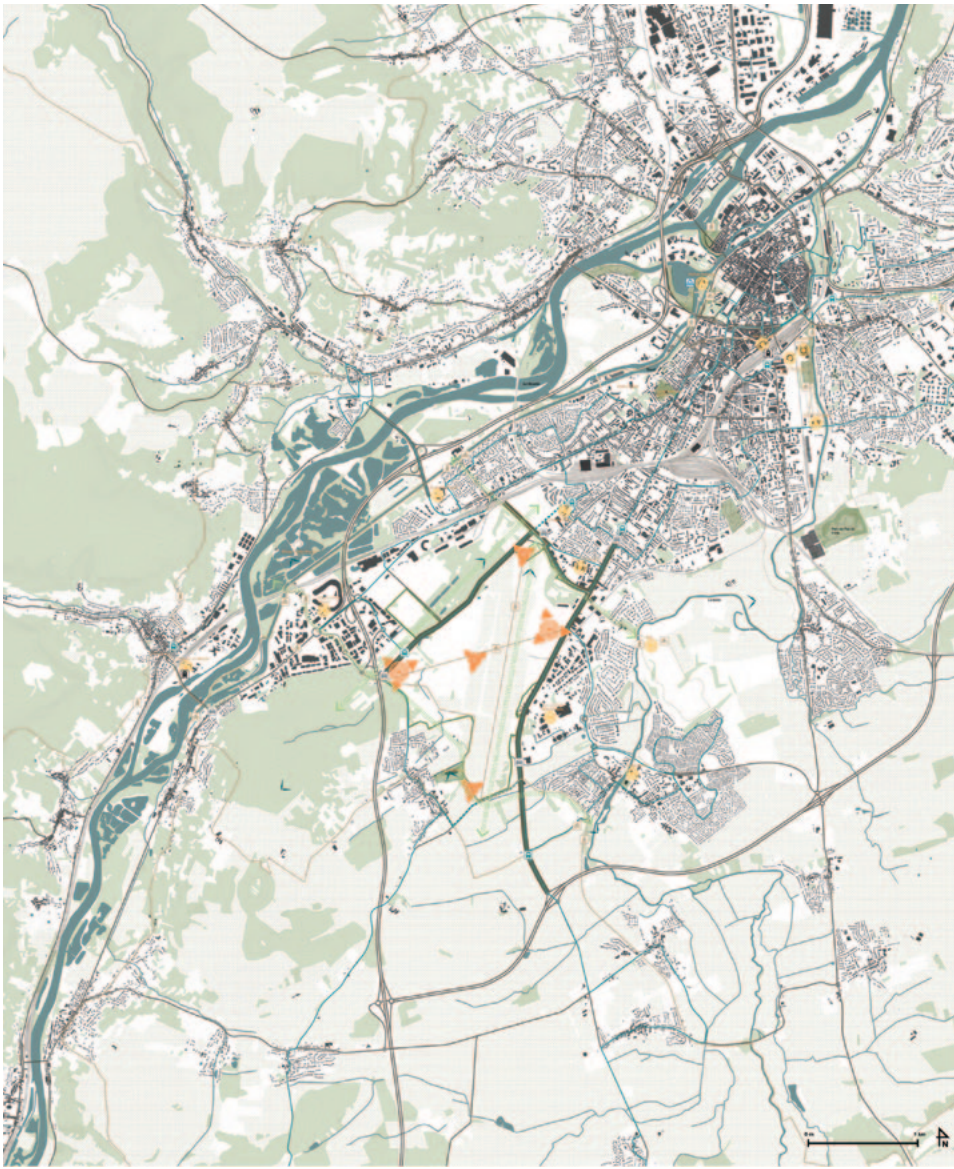
16 - METZ (FR), WINNER - BA128 RÉSONANCES ÉCONOMES > SEE CATALOGUE P.51

In Genève (CH), winning project *La ville intermédiaire* (fig.15) proposes a charter to densify the largely underused area, developing a series of tools to resolve the resulting conflicts. This rule-based concept is completed by a toolkit with proposals to upgrade and adapt the existing villas. The winner in Metz, *BA128 Résonances Économes* (fig.16), sets up a large ecological park on the former airbase. The existing landscape typologies in the region are identified and set up as models for the structuration of the vast space, using archetypes as the prairie, the orchard or the agricultural greenhouse. In Leeuwarden, runner-up *Urban Prescriptions* (fig.17) proposes a catalogue of situations, treatments and small interventions to upgrade the public spaces in the centre. A clever and well-targeted adaptation of the omnipresent toolbox, applied at all scale levels, from the city in its entirety to the profile of a street, not without reminding Camillo Sitte or Christopher Alexander around the corner.
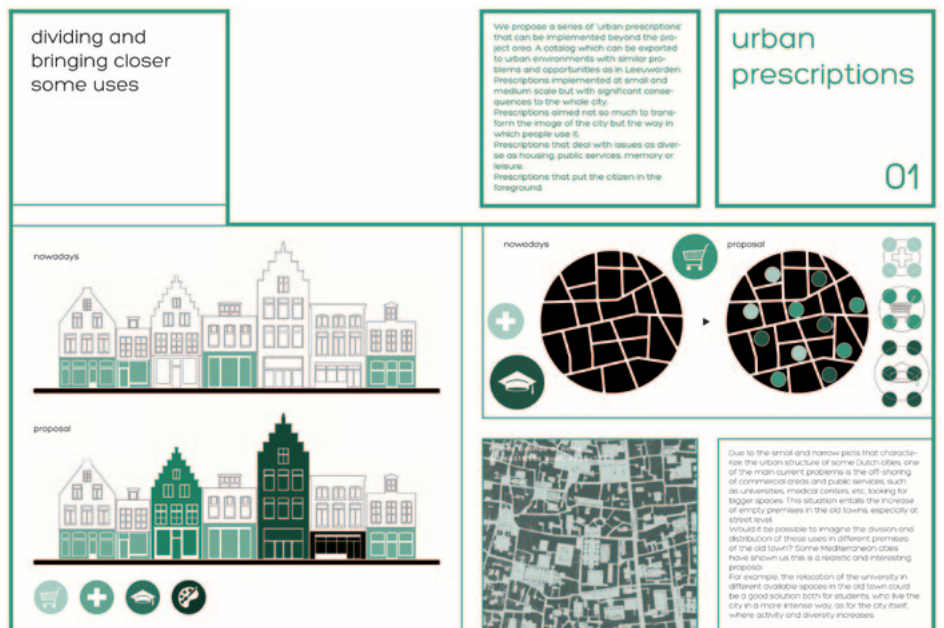
17 - LEEUWARDEN (NL), RUNNER-UP - URBAN PRESCRIPTIONS > SEE CATALOGUE P.48
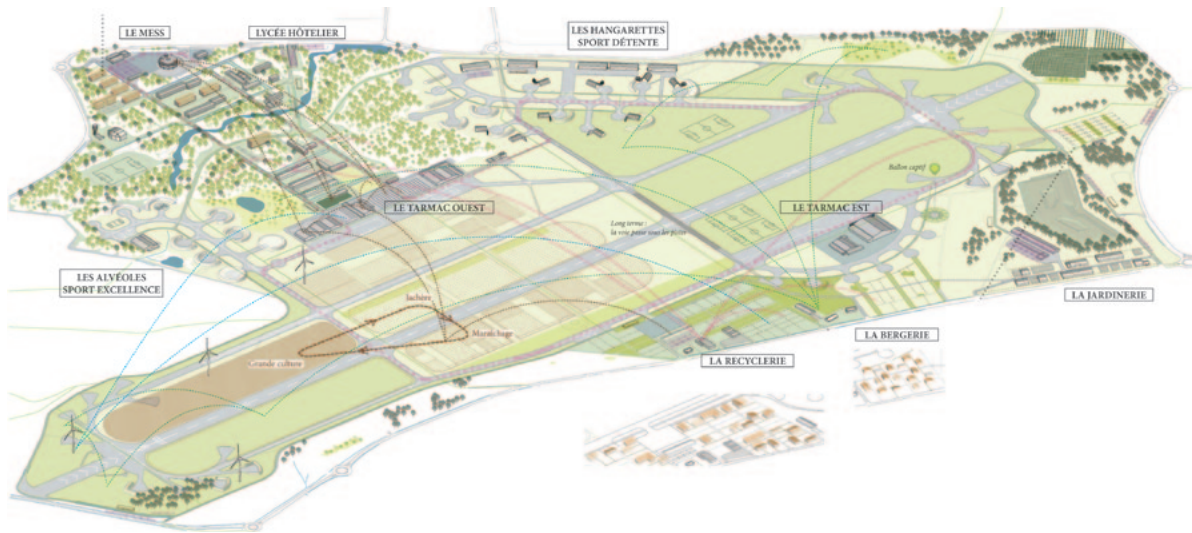
18 - METZ (FR), RUNNER-UP - CYCLES-SOL-AIR > SEE CATALOGUE P.53

Imbrications of scales

It is noticeable that since the shift of the competitions topic from housing to more urban issues sometimes around the turn of the millennium, the range of scales has considerably augmented. The participants seek to reflect from the dwelling to the house, the city block, the quarter to the entire city, and even further in the region. An imbrication of scales, from macro to micro and vice versa, that reflects the attention given to the individual plot within an urban system and the question about how far an individual lot can contribute to the development of the city as a whole.

Again, winning project *BA128 Résonances Économes* in Metz gives an example of a territorial approach by trying to reconnect the formerly inaccessible airfield to its surroundings through the revival of the margins, connecting the already present transportation interfaces to the central void and densifying the peripheral cores. It intensifies the existing by extension, using the newly gained space. The runner-up on same site, *Cycles-Sol-Air* (fig.18), goes further beyond in history, discovering the traces of a roman aqueduct and a baroque castle that used to be on the site. They are trying to not only anchor their project on the present territory, but also in the past, considering that a territory has a kind of inscribed memory to take into consideration. In Bergen, the winner *Our City, Our Collective* (fig.19), starts the reflection on the scale of the entire agglomeration. The lake close to the site is interpreted as a sort of central park instead of a barrier; it becomes a meeting point with the proposal of a promenade around it, which links all the currently isolated areas. The project thus creates a walkable shared space along the shoreline that connects the new city quarter and its neighbourhoods.

Romantic heroism

Some of the projects could be seen as reminders of an era when architecture was a cultural discipline, and not only a marketing tool to produce exchangeable boxes. They are triggering the imaginary by a narrative, often based on archetypes, presenting a new romanticism, collages of situational poetry, tales and traces that are interwoven in an ongoing story. Piranesis drawings of the Campo Marzio seem to filter through
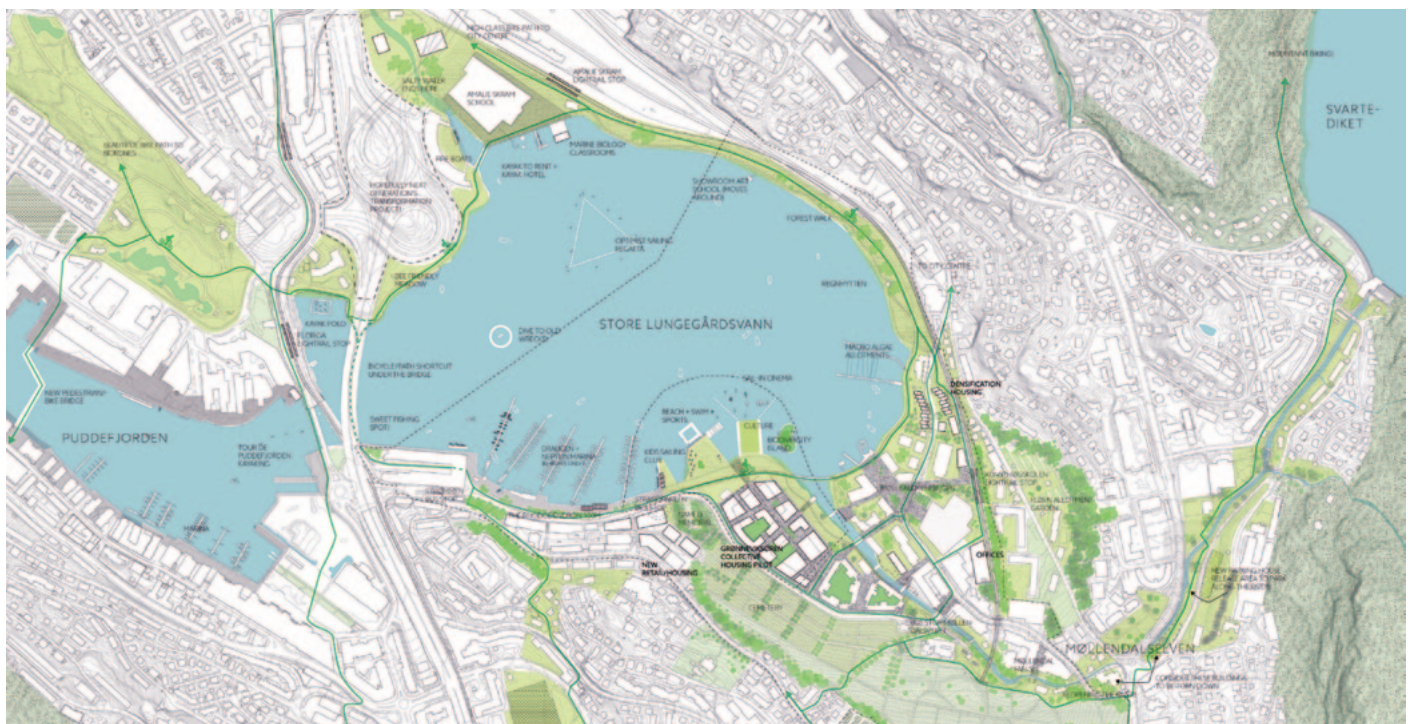
19 - BERGEN (NO), WINNER - OUR CITY, OUR COLLECTIVE > SEE CATALOGUE P.31

20 - FELDAFING (DE), RUNNER-UP - THE MAGIC PARK OF FELDAFING > SEE CATALOGUE P.40

as a background picture. Rossi is back, at several levels, a return both to his nostalgic drawings and his vision of the city, always more solid figure than fabric, closer to Athens than Rome.

The runner-up in Feldafing *The Magic Park of Feldafing* (fig.20), has a romantic subtheme; it sets up a network of associations, imaginary connections and allusions, therefore creating cultural interferences in time and space. But the proposal is not only romantic – it is also very intelligent in terms of strategy, reinterpreting the site as the spatial continuity of the experience of the landscape, punctuated by follies that could be easily adapted to different programs. The winning team in Bergen *Our City, Our Collective*, uses a peaceful imagery to pass its political statement –a manifesto on social housing in Norway today. The large porous block breaks with the current production of dwellings, creating a critical mass that allows a large ground floor with shared facilities and common services. The runner-up in Zagreb *Hey! There is a River Beyond* (fig.21), disguises its highly analytical approach with colourful, almost naïve visualisations that very well illustrate the playful intentions and the imagined participative process.
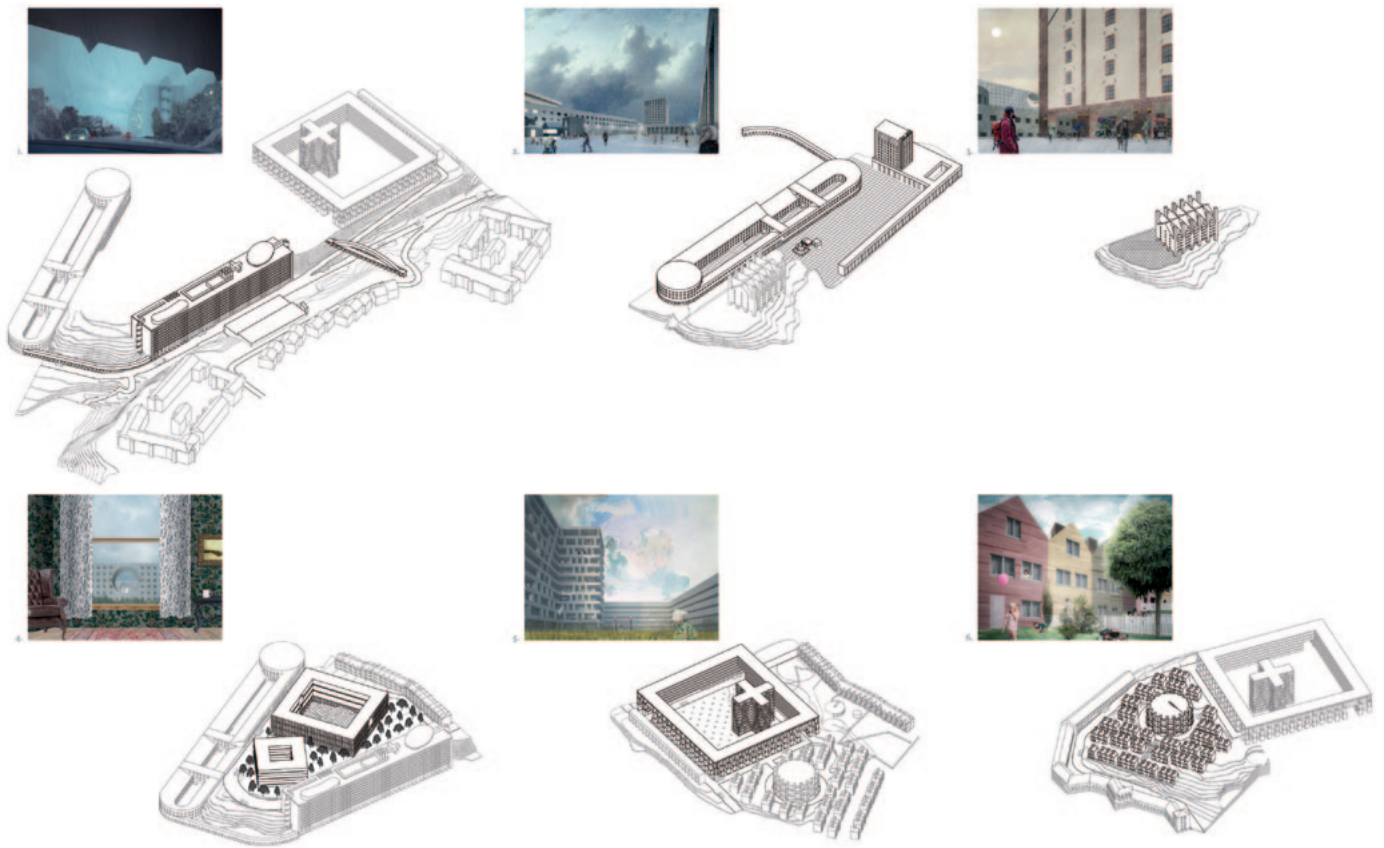
Other projects are more heroic in their expression. The winner in Barreiro *Between the Lines* (fig.22), designs a framework as "limits for an open future", a local mega-structure as elevated walkable grid, that allows another

21 - ZAGREB (HR), RUNNER-UP - HEY! THERE IS A RIVER BEYOND > SEE CATALOGUE P.62

22 - BARREIRO (PT), WINNER - BETWEEN THE LINES > SEE CATALOGUE P.27

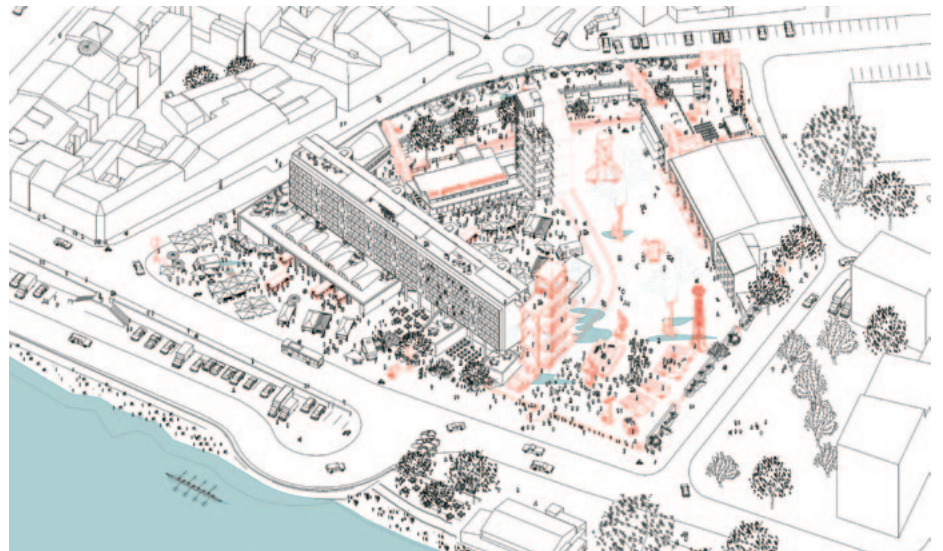**23 -** NACKA (SE), RUNNER-UP - THE ENDS OF THE CITY > SEE CATALOGUE P.56

view of landscape. It creates new public spaces, both mineral and landscaped, which set up a dialogue with the heritage buildings on-site. The runner-up in Nacka *The Ends of the City* (fig.23), suggests an assemblage of typologies on an artificially created topography of ten plateaus on the sloped site. Its key statement is the "resilience of urban form in time", a statement that tries to reinterpret past typologies in a new assemblage, mingling both intimacy and monumentality.

Beyond mixity

Besides the questions of strategy and form, there is the art of dynamic programming, or what could be called the design of the process. Uses, actors, temporality, all these often maverick parameters have to be taken in consideration to create a projects' alchemy. As the commonly used and until now proved standard operation procedures tend not to work correctly anymore, there is a need for new solutions. The most interesting proposals tackle the question on both edges. On the one hand, the perpetuation of ephemeral events to activate a site, a kind of a permanent revolution; on the other hand, the creation of collective structures and new forms of governance,

neighbourhood-building as a laboratory experiment of intermediate democracy.

One of the runner-up projects in Bordeaux *Les grandes manœuvres* (fig.24), uses already tested methods to activate the site and transform it into a mixed-used core for the quarter. The concept could be characterised as a festivalisation, linking intelligently strategy and tactics by a series of manoeuvres in time and space. They consist in the creation of an autonomous administration for the site, a

minimum restoration and minor extensions for the listed buildings, and the installation of a theatre company that plays the site with its huge co-constructed machines. The winner in Leeuwarden *Te Huur* (fig.25), proposes a focalised bottom-up strategy to reactivate the city against the backdrop of the European cultural capital in 2018. By countering the shortage of hotel rooms for this event with the current vacancies in the area, a synergy is created that re-dynamises the centre. Locals

24 - BORDEAUX (FR), RUNNER-UP - LES GRANDES MANŒUVRES > SEE CATALOGUE P.36

25 - LEEUWARDEN (NL), WINNER - TE HUUR > SEE CATALOGUE P.47

Adapting adaptability

The prize-winning projects as a whole propose, independently of the individual site, a range of options on how to deal with voids, less determined by the character, the situation or the size of the individual situation than by the authors' conceptual approach. Their points of view determine the creation of a specific arrangement, a new story or a flexible framework to start a future development. It is also interesting –to better understand the choice of the winning entries– to read the jury reports. They clearly state whether they search, in some cases, for radical innovation, or, on other sites, for pragmatic realism.

And then, listening to the cities' representatives and their motivations helps understand a lot about current trends in the debate about urban planning procedures. It leads to a crucial question: How to use Europan? In some cities, the specific format helps gain time, cool down a hectic and premature debate, think carefully and consciously about the future of a site, without the pressure of a classic competition. Other cities, on the contrary, understand Europan as a tool to speed up interminable and fruitless arguments, as a Jack-in-the-box-like game changer to suddenly put a site on the map and create a buzz to break up a blocked situation. This is probably the most incredible quality of Europan, the possibility to adjust the format according to the specific conditions on the site.

Adaptability also can be adaptable.

and trans-locals are mixed, the new inhabitants bring new activities, an ambitious plan whose directness is both intriguing and striking. The runner-up in Metz *Cycles-Sol-Air*, builds its program on priorities, necessary measures to activate the site, so-called permanences as lasting programs and a proposal of not less than 128 alternances, temporary events largely inspired by what happens on Tempelhof.

As an example of the attempts to conceive new models of living together, the runner-up in Bergen *Møllendal West* (fig.26), proposes a non-profit housing strategy that challenges the traditional property development in Norway. The project proposes an intermediate density between the centre and the areas of detached homes, thus aiming to create an urban neighbourhood both in terms of space and of a careful reflection on communities and their necessary diversity. Even if the expression is rather modest, the proposal tries to raise a relevant political discussion on the modalities of production of subsidised housing. The search for alternative governance is also tackled in the winning project in Genève *La ville intermédiaire*, with the imagination of a legal-organisational interface that is neither public nor private, but takes the form of a collective charter. The authors imagine this structure as an intermediate body in-between the municipal authorities and the individual private stakeholders to federate them and integrate them in a common process, providing a framework for future negotiations in order to initiate the necessary development.

26 - BERGEN (NO), RUNNER-UP - MØLLENDAL WEST > SEE CATALOGUE P.32

HOW TO TRANSFORM PHYSICAL OBSTACLES INTO NEW CONNECTIONS?

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Physical and Strategic Obstacles to Revitalisation

"France embodies everything religious zealots everywhere hate: enjoyment of life here on earth in a myriad little ways: a fragrant cup of coffee and a buttery croissant in the morning, beautiful women in short dresses smiling freely on the street, the smell of warm bread, a bottle of wine shared with friends, a dab of perfume, children playing in the Luxembourg Gardens, the right not to believe in any god, not to worry about calories, to flirt and smoke and enjoy sex outside marriage, to take vacations, to read any book you like, to go to school for free, to play, to laugh, to argue, to make fun of prelates and politicians alike, to leave worrying about the afterlife to the dead…"

This fine passage published in the *New York Times* following the attacks of November 13 is about France, but it also sums up the very essence of European urban life. It touches us as urban designers and architects because it is a reminder of how in Europe we have created a spatial environment suited to a free and open way of life: streets lined with café terraces, squares where events are staged, parks where children play…

For this free and open way of life to be able to develop, the city is constantly adapted, regenerated, reinvented. And there is no doubt that the challenges it faces today – demographic, economic, sociological, ecological – entail enormous changes; it has to tackle its weaknesses and failures while retaining the territorial strengths that give free rein to urban life.

While these weaknesses are primarily social, we should not forget that many cities are, at this time, places in crisis[1], with extreme social and economic divisions, where wealthy and luxurious neighbourhoods sit alongside dingy areas with very high levels of poverty and unemployment, with the emergence of unprecedented urban violence, like the assaults committed on the concourse of Cologne station during the 2016 New Year festivities. Many cities need to deal with their own spatial weaknesses, whether arising from growth, decline, or simply geographical location. These difficulties take a number of forms. First, there is the position of the railway, which divides the city into different entities: from the part "in front of" the station to the more neglected part "behind", from the part that is too close and therefore affected by noise, to the part that is too far away to benefit… Then there are river crossings, which can cause segregation between left and right bank, like the Allier in Moulins (FR) which creates a sharp division between centre and periphery (fig.1). Or there are the roads, which produce such environmental problems that they damage local quality of life and are unhealthy to live near…

Today's city is, more than ever, a fragmented territory marked by numerous physical and nonphysical fractures.

Some of the fractures mentioned above are clearly obstacles inherited from the European city's industrial past: rail infrastructure, large-scale road infrastructure and river structures. For its part, modern urban design has treated them as boundaries that define areas. Canarias Avenue in Palma (ES), a six-lane barrier, separates the beach area from the residential fabric (fig.2). In this approach to urbanism, spatial distribution is based on the setting of surfaces and boundaries. It is not well suited to our contemporary, post-industrial era, in which it is connection that is considered to be fundamental.

This is an issue that the French philosopher Edgar Morin covers extensively in his work. Explaining in *La Méthode* that "knowing is first about being able to distinguish, and then linking what has been distinguished", he emphasises the value of the link and the fact that complexity, which characterises our modern world and the kind of thinking it needs, comes from the Latin word "complexus" which means binding. There is no doubt that this is the biggest current challenge facing our profession, to create links between the fragments of the city so that life can freely unfold in it.

In the category of projects submitted for the Europan 13 competition "How to transform physical obstacles into new connections?" the entrants and winners all clearly identified the fragments of cities to be linked, caused by the physical obstacles. Most of these fragments were in fact clearly indicated in the site descriptions. Most of the entrants also subscribed to the post-industrial urbanistic vision of creating links between the fragments. It was in the implementation of the strategy that they differed, choosing between three categories of approach: Using construction to reconnect and regenerate; Drawing on local dynamics to create links; Revealing and modelling the specific potential of boundaries.


1 - MOULINS (FR)

2 - PALMA (ES)

Using construction to reconnect and regenerate (fig.3)

Among these winning projects, a first group of responses chose as their solution the design of a large-scale architectural or urban ensemble. Their response to the multiple risks of segregation is to commit to a city of sharing. Our examples for this group are the winning projects on the St-Brieuc (FR), Os (NO), Irún (ES), Bamberg (DE) and Graz (AT) sites. To begin with St-Brieuc, the winning project here looked at the possibility of establishing new connections between the large-scale mobility networks, the territory and the coastal landscape. The quest here is to establish a new dialogue between city and nature and to examine the territorial identity that may arise from this exchange. It was in this effort to redirect the city towards the sea and to reassemble the "landscape-puzzle" that the team conceived *Seaside Boulevard* (fig.4), Forming a circular shape that is both a matrix connected with the existing fabric and at the same time a "promotional space" for potential future developments, this boulevard acts as a tool that helps to span the difficult geography that characterises the town. A structuring narrative that forms the basis for multiple potential openings, it is also a symbolic proposal, which seeks to transform not only practices but also the imaginative experience of the place.
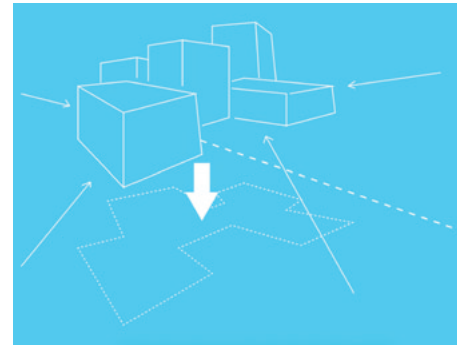
3 - USING CONSTRUCTION
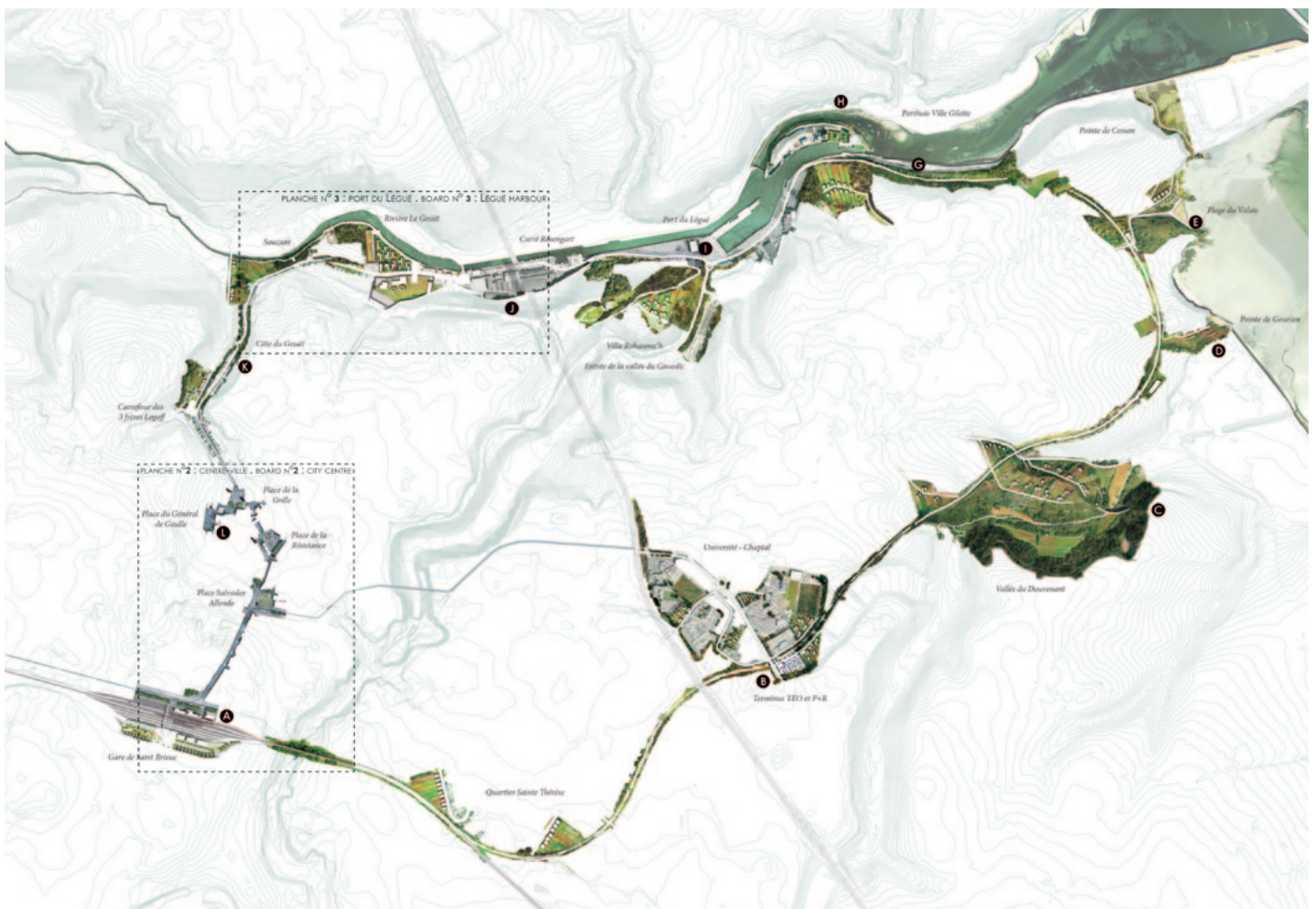
4 - SAINT-BRIEUC (FR), WINNER - SEASIDE BOULEVARD > SEE CATALOGUE P.116
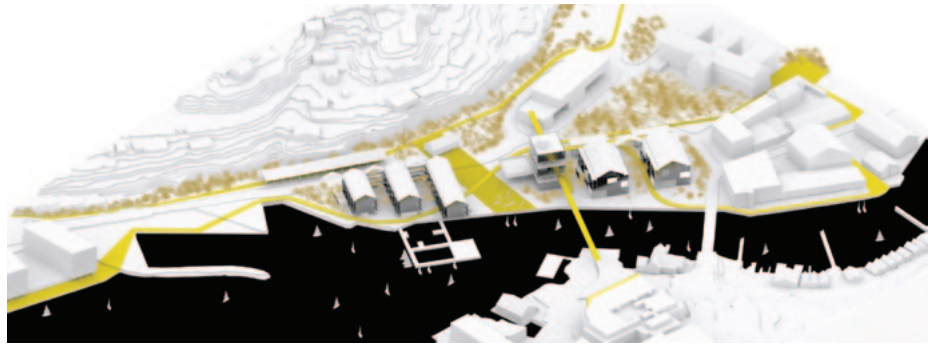
5 - OS (NO), WINNER - OSURBIA - REDEFINING SUBURBIA > SEE CATALOGUE P.107

In a somewhat similar way, in Os, the winning project also proposes working between mobility structures and built fabric. On this site, the task was to transform a small, disparate fabric that was blocking a dialogue between the town centre and the seafront: how could this place become a new area capable of reconnecting a fabric and disconnected banks? In an exploration of the meaning of "suburban", the team identifies and proposes to reinterpret 6 specific icons: the individual dwelling, the car park, the shopping centre, the gas station, cultural identity and the structural axis. This is how *Osurbia - Redefining Suburbia* (fig.5) seeks to respond to future demographic change in Os, while at the same time preserving its identity in a possible move towards an "osurbia" capable of physically crossing the existing obstacles and forming an attractive new urban polarity.

For Irún, the task was to work on the relation between the city and its large rail centre.

The runner-up project *Ura Eta Natura* (fig.6), stresses the importance of thinking about urban transformation in terms of natural ecosystems and a productive inhabited landscape. It therefore incorporates the station site into reflections and studies relating to a larger geographical area, approaching the need to cross the rails as only part of a necessary set of reconnection projects situated at different places and different scales. In this way, it demonstrates that there is no incompatibility

6 - IRÚN (ES), RUNNER-UP - URA ETA NATURA > SEE CATALOGUE P.93

7 - BAMBERG (DE), WINNER - TRADITION : ADAPTION : VERKNUEPFUNG > SEE CATALOGUE P.79

between the need for physical connection, a dense urban fabric, and landscape quality and the presence of nature.

In Bamberg, the goal was to work out new dynamics between the town centre, the station and the fast developing Bamberg East district. The question was how to fit in with the changes already underway, and pursue and reinforce the processes of revitalising this large, disparate urban fabric. To answer this question, the winning team focused its efforts on highlighting an urban project capable of improving the structure of the built fabric, establishing new public spaces, offering a wider choice in terms of mobility and programme, while at the same time unifying the neighbourhood within a new, more legible structure. In all

this, the claim made by *Tradition: Adaptation: Verknuepfung* (fig.7) is that it is by focusing on the development of the district itself that the problems of disconnection caused by the rails can be resolved.

Libramont too faces problems in matching rail infrastructure to urban fabric. The special mention project *50 Shades of green* (fig.8)*, proposes densifying the competition site through further construction. Grasping the possibility of building on either side of the rail front, it proposes the creation of a new, relatively dense district, with an emphasis on urban agriculture. In this, it too seems to wish to show how the issue is not just one of rail crossings and station access, but also of giving meaning to the whole urban area around.

8 - LIBRAMONT (BE), SPECIAL MENTION - 50 SHADES OF GREEN > SEE CATALOGUE P.97

9 - GRAZ (AT), WINNER - WALZER > SEE CATALOGUE P.87

10 - DRAWING ON DYNAMICS

In Graz, finally, the municipality was looking for a proposal for the conversion of a site situated in front of the railway line and the station. Here, the physical fracture caused by the railway line was minimised by the winning project *Walzer* (fig.9), by means of a very thorough multifunctional programme. Simultaneously hybrid and unitary, durable and adaptable, assertive and discreet, the formal proposition ignores paradoxes to offer a high quality architectural ensemble. It is "by giving a new reason" for crossing the railway line, it might be said, that the project spots the possibility for a more successful connection with the town centre, and convinces in its design of a structuring element for the metamorphosis of the district.

Drawing on local dynamics to create links (fig.10)

Every one of these submissions shows the capacity of the teams to propose a high-quality urban-architectural solution, capable of creating links beyond the obstacle in question, but also more broadly to regenerate not only the urban sites presented for the competition but also their surrounding areas. In quite a different way, a second set of proposals chose to tackle the obstacles by focusing instead on the local and micro scale, networking and bottom-up processes. Innumerable responses took this approach. Here, we will look at the winning projects on the sites in Gjakova (KO), Moulins (FR) and Ingolstadt (DE), and show how all these winning projects, whether rhizomatic, thematic or conceptual, are strategies that focus on stimulating citizen involvement in order to link and revitalise the sites.

In the case of Gjakova, the objective is to grasp the potential offered by the watersides. Currently unused despite their advantageous urban location – right in the heart of the town – can these docks be redeveloped at limited cost? To prove it, the winning team (fig.11) highlights the capacity of cultural activities and events to promote temporary uses of the place, with little need for initial facilities or physical transformations. By identifying areas capable of accommodating concerts, summer film screenings or seasonal markets, *SEAMbiosis* makes a persuasive case: from small elements inserted here and there (wooden decking, built-in benches, "treasure hunts", etc.), substantial urban dynamics could emerge.

The riverbanks at Moulins were also one of the sites in this session's competition. Larger in scale, and creating a much greater discontinuity between the two sides of the river, these banks undoubtedly constitute a missed opportunity. Drawing on a theoretical alignment between Lamarck's "transformism" and Darwin's "evolutionism", the project
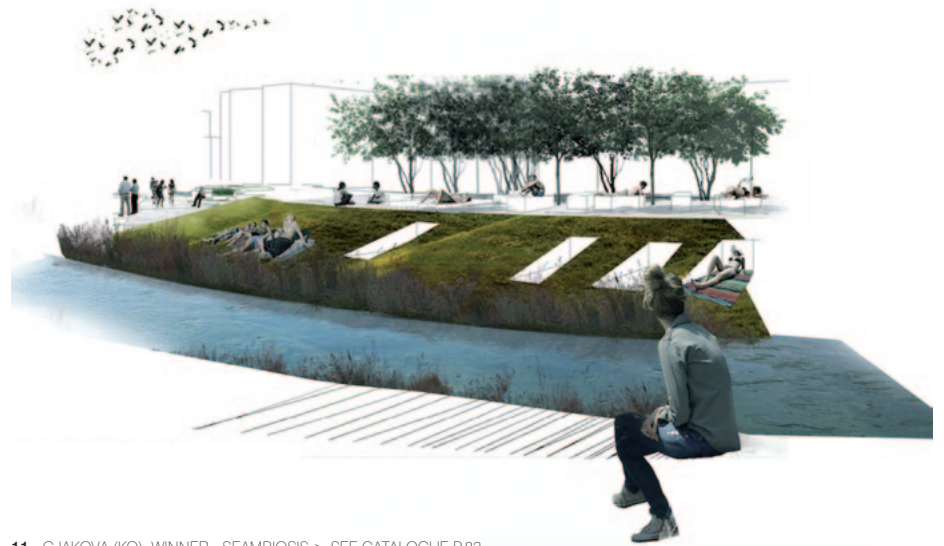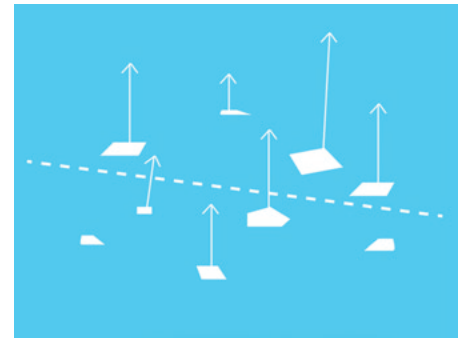
conceives and presents its proposals within a unified perspective. Through this distinctive interpretative framework, the winning team proposes in *The Theory of Evolution* (fig.12) nine different initiatives ranging from the architectural conversion of sheds to the planting of trees, from the invention of a "viewpoint-slide" to the installation of an "amphibious neighbourhood" or houses on stilts. In each case, the idea is the same: with a renewed dialogue between the wider landscape and human habitat, they propose a set of interventions to revitalise local activity and enhance the relationship with the "obstacle" of the River Allier.

While it is not the river that is the issue in Ingolstadt, but rather the problem of urban devitalisation and the need to introduce new force into the relationship between mobility and urban quality, once again it is a unificatory approach that characterises the winning *Waldstrasse project.* Suggesting 25 different, localised actions (setting aside a space for events, adding new bus stops, redrawing the profile of the streets, etc.) on a unified ground space, the proposal seeks to turn the main street into a more attractive linear park, where pedestrian mobility can become more than an environmentally desirable way of moving around by generating new urban practices.

11 - GJAKOVA (KO), WINNER - SEAMBIOSIS > SEE CATALOGUE P.83
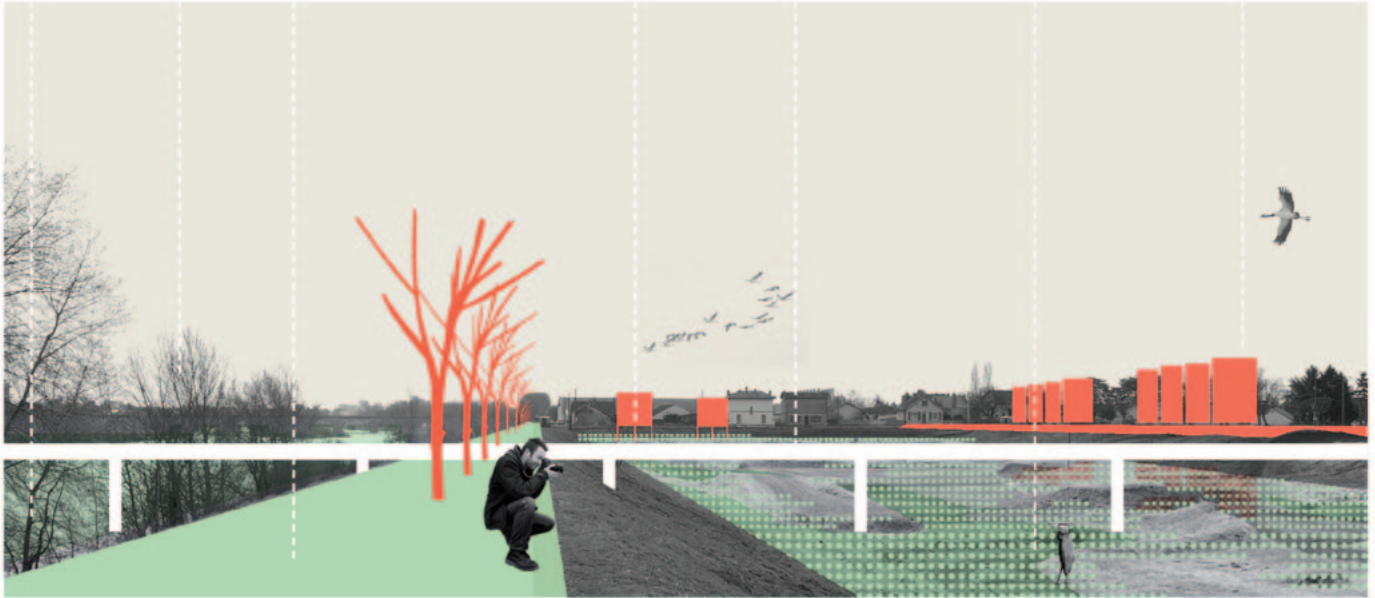
LES VERGERS DE LA MADELEINE _ vaine pâture

LA MADELEINE ORCHARDS _ Commons
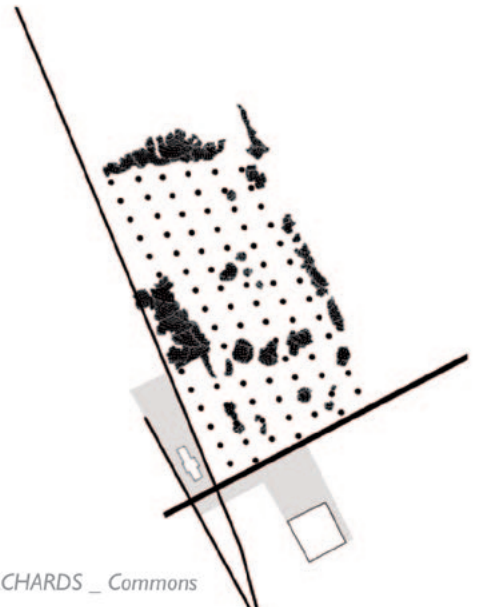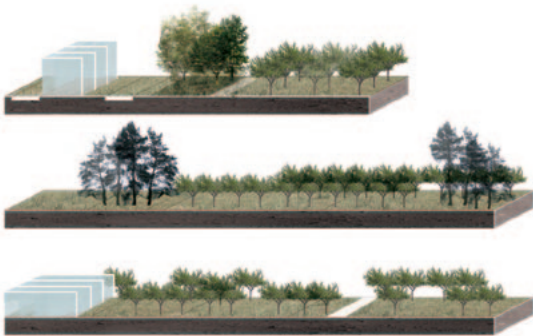
12 - MOULINS (FR), WINNER - THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION > SEE CATALOGUE P.103

Revealing and modelling the specific potential of boundaries (fig.13)

So as we can see, each of these winners, in its own way, devises other forces of development with the capacity to overcome the real, symbolic or imaginary obstacles that urban dynamics can encounter. And, insofar as they were able to consider the proposed themes of "self-organisation" vs. "welfare state" and "object" vs. "project", they constitute entities that reveal new project trends and practices in Europe.

Finally, a third category of responses invites analysis. These consist of the winning proposals for the sites in A Coruña (ES), Palma (ES), Seinäjoki (FI) and Marne-la-Vallée (FR). In their consideration of the specific architectural and urban potentials associated with boundaries (whether a coast, a motorway or a railway line), these projects seem to have the capacity to devise distinctive arrangements suited to the site concerned and their problems.
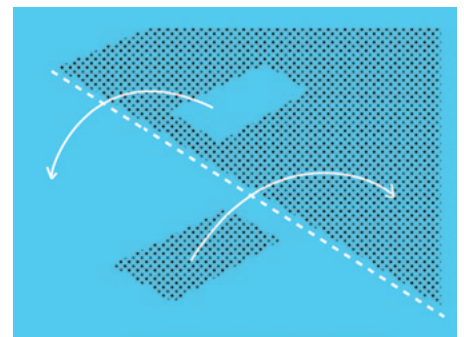
13 - REVEALING AND MODELLING THE POTENTIAL
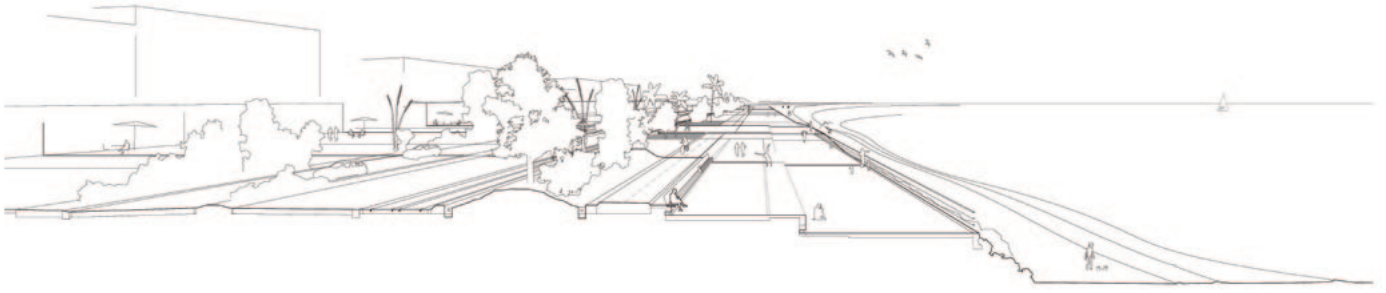
In Palma, the task was to rethink the city's relationship to the sea. What urban arrangements could replace the current major road to accommodate a set of more sustainable and desirable forms of mobility, better able to connect the built fabric with the seafront? The winning project *Salvemos el horizonte* (fig.14), chooses to work with the site's distinctive feature: the horizon. Arguing that one of the objectives lies in the "non-construction" of the site, the project redraws street profiles that are more hospitable to walking and suitable for the creation of a genuinely shared public space.

For this session, the town of A Coruña proposed a complex site, a large heterogeneous fabric between a major road infrastructure and a waterfront. The question was what status and future should be devised for this territory with its multiple identities, and what crossings to introduce in order to make access easier. The *Nice to 'Sea' You* project won the competition by proposing a phased process in which this "unproductive" zone would be converted into a "productive" territory. Drawing on this leitmotif to enhance the area's capacities to host leisure, production, housing or mobility systems, the proposal also sought to show the economic credibility (notably in terms of attractiveness and therefore the potential for public-private partnerships) of such ideas in stimulating "productivity".

In Seinäjoki, the potential of the boundary revealed by the winning project (fig.15) was quite different; *Notch* sees a site that calls for a remodelling of the relationship between a station and its surroundings as an invitation to architectural invention: what does it mean to live and work every day by the railway line, and how can architecture itself be open to this specific situation? The winning team responds, in particular, with a set of hexagonal geometries as a matrix for new housing typologies perhaps more suited to the conditions of life by a railway line.

In response to the discontinuity caused by the divisive road infrastructures in Marne-la-Vallée,

the winning project *Ville N(M)ature* (fig.16) explores the history of the location to highlight the great strength of this territory located at the interface between city and nature. Developing the multiple ways in which this boundary situation could be better presented, it seeks to introduce a more resilient urban form, with better managed interfaces, by proposing new uses (housing, "observation places", arrangements of public space, etc.) for the "green lane" produced by this metamorphosis. Also an opportunity to reinitiate the architectural experiments that may have accompanied the creation of these new towns, argues the team. In short, combating powerful processes of compartmentalisation through a revitalisation strategy that once again entails the highlighting and development of the particular situations created by the physical obstacle, rather than necessarily crossing it at all costs.

Adaptable urbanities, between ambition and practicality

One may begin by concluding that although the winners propose to introduce built structures to regenerate the city, they do not see these structures as finished objects but rather as projects that progress in stages. In other words, this is less about fixed objects than projects that evolve, adapt, are constructed gradually.

In fact, the awareness of economic uncertainties, but also of the difficulty of implementing "turnkey" projects on sites containing obstacles and therefore involving numerous actors (road companies, rail companies, river management bodies…) encouraged the winners not only to develop phased implementation processes, but also to propose solutions that recruit the various existing and potential actors of urban production, to devise innovative participatory processes, and finally to create new openings for possible catalysts for implementation

(establishment of alternative economic arrangements, development of management structures, etc.).

Therefore, although all the projects propose spatial solutions to the crossing of physical obstacles, they also combine these solutions with nonphysical strategies.

In all this, the projects often consider more than the spatial framework alone, acquiring a social, economic and even ecological dimension. Similarly, the notion of adaptability has not been understood simply in its functional sense, but has been employed more broadly by the teams, to encompass the temporal, structural, or even symbolic dimension. Each of these axes constitutes a new approach to the understanding and conception of human settlements and their metamorphoses.

By way of conclusion, we would note that these projects are (in the large majority) extremely modest and pragmatic: no big engineering or architectural gestures, instead frugal and contextualised strategies… Something that was undoubtedly much appreciated by the municipalities present for the discussions at the Cities and Juries Forum. However, in these gloomy times, one may perhaps regret the absence of fantasy and ambition, a hint of folly that could give us food for dreaming in the future? More than ever, it is important to argue – perhaps a little too loudly – in favour of ambition for quality of life, openness and freedom for the "European city", It is our task to imagine and implement urban spaces that are ethically committed to what constitutes the strength of our shared urban virtues: their capacity to accommodate both the singularity of the individual and the breadth of the universal.

[1] OVINK, H, INTERVIEW VAI, 2015

15 - SEINÄJOKI (FI), WINNER - NOTCH > SEE CATALOGUE P.119

16 - MARNE-LA-VALLÉE (FR), WINNER - VILLE N(M)ATURE > SEE CATALOGUE P.99

HOW TO USE NEW INPUTS TO CHANGE URBAN SPACE?

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"Negotiate as You Go Along": Infrastructures for Shared "Hybrid" Territories

1 - BONDY (FR)

2 - STAVANGER (NO)

3 - SCHWÄBISCH GMÜND (DE)

4 - VERNON (FR)

5 - MOLFETTA (IT)

6 - ESPOO (FI)

7 - SANTO TIRSO (PT)

8 - ST PÖLTEN (AT)

The article is an investigation about the infrastructural role of Europan 13 winning projects in enhancing shared "hybrid" territories. Such territories have multi-geographic realities resulting from urban transport network connections and incoming programs while transformed by all sorts of on-site localities. The projects unfold their political virtue by proposing gradual change of relations amongst the projects' actors, hence influencing how new incoming urban dynamics –*inputs*– may transform the competition sites into shared "hybrid" territories. The tensions may arise due to potential conflicts between on-site urban actors' agendas and those of the incoming ones. Europan projects' challenge is therefore to become negotiation apparatus in the hands of the urban actors for the adaptable city in, first fostering the presence of the public domain when there is decreasing absence of the Welfare State; second, promoting sharing within an increasing segregated world; and third, allowing for new relations and negotiating moments between the urban actors during project making where urban fragmentation is growing. In fact, this article departs from the last objective to shortly revisit the other two.

The Europan 13 hosting sites of such new inputs are grouped in three categories. The first one is about large mono-functional areas, of big box urbanism (fig.1) –Bondy (FR), Wien (AT)–, of fossil fuel industries (fig.2) –Stavanger (NO)–, or of former military camps and actual teachers' and school centre (fig.3) –Schwäbisch Gmünd (DE); most of them

with reduced public presence and need of community spirit. The second category is about areas part of large territorial figures, such as riverbanks (fig.4)–Vernon (FR)–, former industrial waterfronts (fig.5) –Trondheim (NO), Molfetta (IT)–, or natural landscapes (fig.6)– Espoo (FI), Landsberg (DE)–, pressured by increasing private development and threatened by decreasing local community role. The third group is about rather isolated areas, some with community activity (fig.7) –Lund (SE), Montreuil (FR), Santo Tirso (PT)– confronted to potential overwhelming metropolitan flows due to imminent connections to agglomerations' transport networks (fig.8) –St Pölten (AT).
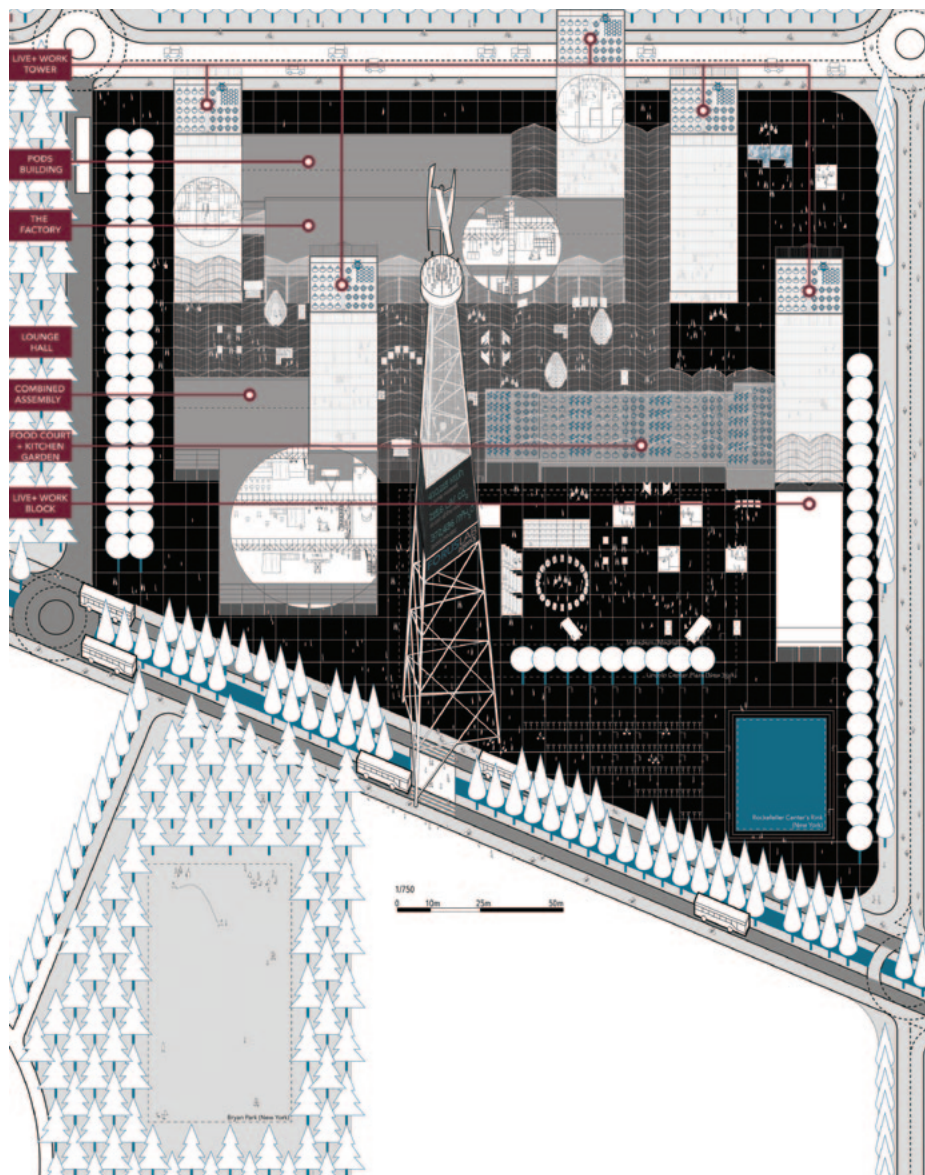
The Europan project in changing times: from participation to negotiation

The expression "Negotiate As You Go Along" could draw references from practices back in the 1960s and 1970s, such as that of Cedric Price collaboration with Inter-Action, an alternative theatre collective, to build the Inter-Action Centre, allowing him to investigate the role of architectural practice in changing times with the emergence of mass media, mass consumerism and mass housing. In fact, Price attributed negotiating capacities to architecture by opening up the design process into a collective platform, inviting for participation. According to Tanja Herdt[1], he found himself exposed in a

rather broadened architecture's shift in terms of communication, project development and project outcome. Price invested in participatory moments thanks to the adaptable nature of Inter-Action's infrastructure based on a flexible technical building system. However, the results were rather questionable due to the incompatibility of the high-tech building infrastructure with the low-tech labour contribution intended by the "Inter-Action" collective[2].

Going back to Europan 13, the winning teams are investing in participatory moments thanks to the invisible technology of the urban project as well as to the visible one of the architectural object, both being quite decisive for the co-production of shared "hybrid" territories.

"The task at hand involves working in different scales and with a diverse set of mechanisms blending urban planning, programming, operative and recreational landscapes, infrastructure and communication."
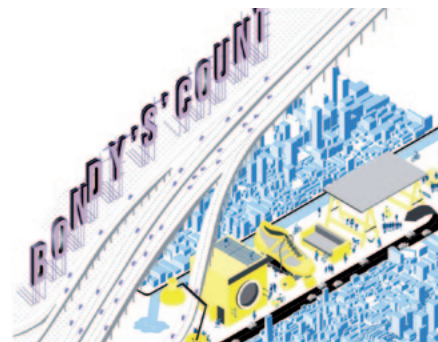
9 - STAVANGER (NO), WINNER - FORUS LABING > SEE CATALOGUE P.175

10 - BONDY (FR), WINNER - BONDY'S COUNT
> SEE CATALOGUE P.135

neutrality, are called to articulate the demand of citizens' participation without making their own stance explicit. He goes on to state that successful citizenship demands reorganization of institutions to have participation imbedded in their decision making, such as the recent case of Barcelona Municipality.

A multiagency approach to enhance the public: between strategies of infiltration and tactics of revalorization of the existing

in fact, the winning projects under study employ a multiagency approach to cope with such dilemmas and set up negotiating frameworks to initiate sharing within "hybrid territories". The point of departure of the projects depends on the state of things in regards to the competition sites and briefs. In some cases when the incoming global flows of people and activities are dominant, as in the first group of sites of mono-functional uses, the projects are about strategies of infiltration to enhance public and collective uses – winners in Bondy and Wien (fig.10 & 11). In other cases, where there is community life which may be challenged by the

Reading the abovementioned excerpt from Stavanger's competition brief, quoted by winning team *Forus LABing* (fig.9), we are witnessing a shift of architectural practice such as the one confronted by Price. The new shift however demands for complex operations and alliances beyond the architecture's field. By using the concept of "negotiation" we are bringing forward the aspects of participation that are internal to design processes and contain a level of power shift among the project actors. In fact, we aim to surpass pitfalls of the participatory paradigm being used in neutralizing conflict and diminishing the risks of investment by limiting public protest, as Jeremy Till mentions[3]. In fact, we embrace his claim that participation should be about distribution of power in the co-production of the city. Further on, geographer Erik Swyngedow[4] addresses the myths of participation of which we need to be aware of. He first argues that the call for participation is a symptom of democratic dysfunction – institutions do not work and they

therefore call citizens to find a solution. Second, he refers to a misunderstood concept of citizens' participation that addresses a specific set of people, since bankers and developers –who are citizens too– have plenty of access to decision making unlike many others; besides, they would not be very happy of sharing power. Third, he refers to agents who, on the name of

11 - WIEN (AT), WINNER - PUBLICQUARTIER > SEE CATALOGUE P.187

12 - LUND (SE), RUNNER-UP - MONSTER PLANNING > SEE CATALOGUE P.150

13 - MONTREUIL (FR), SPECIAL MENTION - OULIPO > SEE CATALOGUE P.158

14 - VERNON (FR), WINNER - INSÉCABLE DISTANCE
> SEE CATALOGUE P.183

incoming metropolitan flows –Lund, Montreuil– the project teams choose to concentrate on tactics of revalorization of the unseen virtues of the local everydayness and show how they could play a new role in such "hybrid territories" –*Monster Planning* runner-up in Lund (fig.12); *OuLiPo,* special mention in Montreuil (fig.13); *Insécable distance,* winner in Vernon (fig.14). Further on, we can see projects that consider the new transport nodes as initiators of such hybrid territories –*Culture Symbiotic,* winner in Lund (fig.15); *Navigable Collections,* runner-up in Vernon. In some other cases, the project teams hold on the presence of agglomeration mobility networks to discourage the creation of isolated communities –*Serendipity of Fields,* runner-up in Montreuil (fig.16); *Living With(In) Nature,* winner in Landsberg; *Nodes,* runner-up in Schwäbisch Gmünd (fig.17)–, or create additional hosting space for incoming immigrant communities –*The Elastic City,* runner-up in St Pölten.

Emerging modes of collective practices thanks to synergies between process- and object-oriented approaches

To encourage collective practices –the main ingredient of shared "hybrid territories"– we may need to rely on new ways of negotiation, initiated thanks to synergies between object- and process-oriented approaches. We may then avoid what Swyngedow mentions in regards to the neverending processes usually employed by urbanists as well as to the authoritarian object placing by architects, unaware of its political implications. Amongst the E13 winning projects, we can see a diversity of approaches that employ new relations between processes and objects to achieve sharing within "hybrid territories", by departing either from an object placing or a
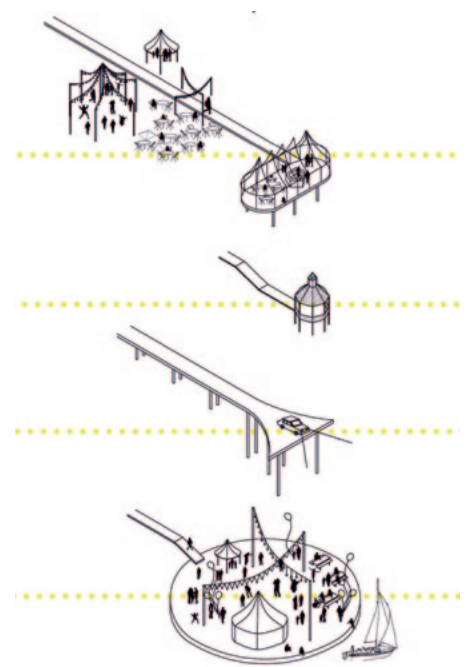
process initiating and suggesting exchanges among them during design processes.
In some cases the architectural object gets a central role in defining the space of collective practices, either through its uniqueness or its repetition –*The False Mirror,* winner in Trondheim (fig.18). In other cases it gets a symbolic value of the community's presence along territorial figures such as rivers – *Insécable distance,* winner in Vernon – and seacoasts –Espoo–, opening up new kinds of sharing. The winning project in Molfetta, *Hold the Line,* employs a sort of stripped down urban Inter-Action centre to accommodate a community's everydayness along a public waterfront. In the case of the runner-up project in Trondheim, *More Trondheim!* (fig.19), we see existing industrial buildings as shelters for public activities. In the same project, the reorganization to medium size plots becomes another way to ensure the presence of city-scale activities, keeping out big box interventions. In the case of Wien the winning project, *Publicquartier*, reestablishes the role

15 - LUND (SE), WINNER - CULTURE SYMBIOTIC
> SEE CATALOGUE P.149

16 - MONTREUIL (FR), RUNNER-UP - SERENDIPITY OF FIELDS > SEE CATALOGUE P.157

17 - SCHWÄBISCH GMÜND (DE), RUNNER-UP - NODES > SEE CATALOGUE P.166

of public space as the enactment of any city centre by proposing the gradual demolition of a city block by the train station, adjacent to a dominating shopping mall. *Publicquartier* initiates creative synergies between public and collective by strategically locating a "habitat" to negotiate the district's urban future.

Process initiating by the project teams may get a playful mode. This is the case of *Bondy's Count,* winner in Bondy, where a game-like negotiation takes place, during which the city should gain infiltration into the competition site by gradually acquiring left-over spaces as well as "left-over times" from the big box operational everydayness. The community would initially emerge by the ephemeral activities and on a second "game round", by a reorganization of the ground inviting big box actors to address the intermediate scale and the introduction of a diversity of activities. To empower a structured negotiation process, a special mention on the same site, *Les nouvelles dynamiques,* offers a well-devised methodology to infiltrate public and community activities within the site, encouraging the big box urbanism to adapt. The team offers a "precedence catalogue", very handy to support controversial dialogues (evidence based urbanism). In Stavanger, the winning project, *Forus LABing*, encourages the development of a networked collectivity guided by a complex strategy of management and design into visualizing transformative processes for urban futures of the actual mono-functional fossil industry area. "Innovation Palaces" is the name

of the "habitat" for negotiation processes. The ground gets "super-surface" characteristics to maximize flexibility, where plug-in towers increase the critical mass of inhabitants to yield new communities.

Negotiation thresholds for gradual increase of sharing in co-producing the adaptable city

"Negotiate as You Go Along the Process of Making the Europan Project" is a notification to all actors for the gradual increase of sharing of project making. Their passage through many negotiation thresholds would alter their initial agendas towards a common final outcome. Such approach seems to be frequent among the winning teams, which have delivered complex packages of proposals, full of negotiating moments. Negotiation is ready to take place when the project teams revalorize the existing site's assets –*Monster Planning* in Lund–, and redefine the competition brief's priorities –*Forus LABing* in Stavanger. Negotiation is imminent when they propose roadmaps to the project actors for assisted itineraries through processes with uncertain outcome – *Les nouvelles dynamiques,* special mention in Bondy– or when they make visible the complex networks of relations and powers of the actors at stake –*Bondy's Count,* winner in Bondy.

"Negotiate as You Go Along" is an urge to rethink the technology of architectural practice and its contribution in the urban project operating in complex "hybrid" territories. Issues of communication, project development and outcome are indeed at the heart of architectural practice's shift. Europan is a pertinent platform to study the tendencies of change but also of reappearance of approaches. Addressing the challenge of participation through the concept of negotiation has shown that the Europan 13 projects could operate as platforms to change relations among divergent urban actors in creating shared "hybrid" territories.
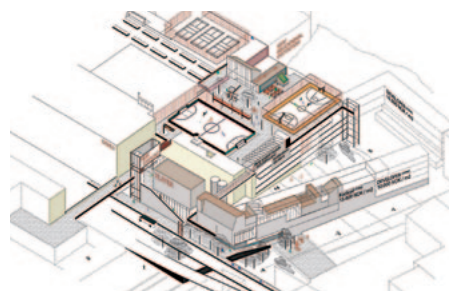
19 - TRONDHEIM (NO), RUNNER-UP - MORE TRONDHEIM! > SEE CATALOGUE P.180

[1] "ARCHITECTURE AS NEGOTIATION: THE INTER-ACTION CENTRE OF CEDRIC PRICE", IN CONFERENCE *ARCHITECTURE AS MATTER OF CONTENTION*, AACHEN, 2015

[2] ID.

[3] INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN *MONU MAGAZINE* (NO 23, 2015)

[4] AESOP CONFERENCE, PRAGUE, 2015

18 - TRONDHEIM (NO), WINNER - THE FALSE MIRROR > SEE CATALOGUE P.179

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New Inputs, New Public Spaces

1 - BONDY (FR)

3 - ESPOO (FI)

New inputs, game changing new infrastructures, new connections, renovated economic forces, strategic implementations, or simply new considerations in an existing and functioning area, offer an opportunity for negotiation between the new and the existing that can generate innovative contexts for interaction, new kinds of public spaces.

In the resulting transformation, the existing adapts to accommodate the new input, and a richer, denser, more elaborate constellation emerges.

The interior of an industrial building turned into a covered piazza

Consider the site in Bondy (FR), a strip of land between the canal and a parallel line of more modern infrastructure. Known as the "furniture road", it had been evolving from light industry to a combination of production and commercial (fig.1). Now, new bus lines will bring a different kind of public, populating a strip of canal side which, at the larger scale, is being transformed into a pedestrian network of semi-urban areas. The special mention project *Re_Bondying* (fig.2) identifies an industrial building that can easily be transformed into a covered public space. This is a relatively new way to understand public space, which we have seen implemented in other similar contexts with a high degree of success (e.g. Île de Nantes). If the structure was not there in the first place, the idea of a covered but open public space might not be financially viable. On the other hand, a piazza sheltered from the rain and protected from the wind is an ideal meeting point in this kind of latitude.

The team takes this further by proposing reused wood for the cladding, as part of a holistic strategy that works with wood and the canal, both as productive resources and as material textures that are able to create an identity. Furniture production is combined with its commercial lines; the canal is a working means of low carbon transportation for the wood, at the same time as it provides a linear pedestrian leisure area; the covered piazza provides a node, and encourages people to visit the place regardless of the weather; the resulting is a rich mix of productive urbanity.

Introverted intermediate spaces

In the site in Espoo (FI) a natural society of "birds, squirrels and trees", quoting from the city's documents, will need to absorb a growing program of university buildings, including student housing (fig.3). The new buildings need to respect a bird sanctuary and squirrel habitats, with which they will need to integrate.

Many of the answers are based on a number of introverted buildings, dotted amongst the trees, with a minimum of interaction with the surroundings via a pedestrian connecting line, like a path in the forest. In the case of the winning proposal, *Wild Synapse* (fig.4), the buildings are indeed like trees, self-centred, their volumes made up of a myriad small branches. In the runner-up project *Pärske* (fig.5) the buildings are rather more mineral,

2 - BONDY (FR), SPECIAL MENTION - RE_BONDYING > SEE CATALOGUE P.136

5 - ESPOO (FI), RUNNER-UP - PÄRSKE > SEE CATALOGUE P.140

4 - ESPOO (FI), WINNER - WILD SYNAPSE > SEE CATALOGUE P.139

6 - LANDSBERG (DE)

8 - SANTO-TIRSO (PT)

like abstract crystal cubes in the landscape. In both cases, the question is where to foresee the necessary intermediate shared spaces, so important for student housing, without interfering with the existing natural society. The ground floor, or the space between buildings, must be free of public functions as this would mean too much of a disruption in the ecosystems where the constructions are erected. The response of both proposals is introverted, and separated from the ground.

In *Pärske,* the mineral project, the intermediate spaces are in the core of the hard geometric volume. The strictness of the cubic form is broken up towards the isolated, defended, interior space, with elements of domestic life such as kitchens or dining rooms protruding inwards, like the crystals inside a geode.

In *Wild Synapse* the branch-like trellis partly screens the shared spaces from view, and these fly over from tree-building to tree-building, separated from the ground, linking the various constructions at the level of the canopy. The partial screening allows for a restrained integration of the human environment in the forest, as an optimized compromise between the need to restrain construction in the wildlife and at the same time enjoying the outstanding position of the tree houses.

Fragmented nature

The challenge in Landsberg (DE) is also about widening the footprint of an existing human settlement (fig.6). The new constructions are expected to find a balance with the natural cycles of the surrounding area, but in this case the target is not focused on the preservation of a specific ecosystem, but in the added value that an intensification of local ecosystems may offer to the new development.

The winning proposal, *Living With(in) Nature*

(fig.7), creates an interface between the currently built-up area (former barracks turned business centre) and the new development (housing and recreation related to the former) which could be described as a fragmentation of the green infrastructure associated with an existing flow of water, breaking it up with a new geometry, so that it can be used as a collection of public spaces with different scales: from the garden, to the park, to the landscape.

The line of water becomes a succession of rectangular pools, maintaining the continuity while becoming perfectly permeable; the pools are staggered to one side and the other, defining a variety of open spaces, sometimes towards the business centre, sometimes towards the housing.

The transversal pedestrian lines that run through the new housing and across the alignment of pools will be populated with trees, to reconnect the patches of forest that were razed down over the past times to clear land for farmland.

A hybrid landscape emerges, with the centrality of a public space between work and residence, but integrated in the natural cycles and infrastructure of the territory; with a fragmented geometry that defines the proximity of the urban, but with the continuity and variability of a meandering flow of water.

Fragmented park

The question in Santo Tirso (PT) runs in the opposite direction (fig.8). The site is a very large area in a central urban context, formerly a large market square and building, which has lost its original function, and is now part of a wider strategy of transformation of the inner city. How to take advantage of the size and centrality of this vast open space?

7 - LANDSBERG (DE), WINNER - LIVING WITH(IN) NATURE > SEE CATALOGUE P.145

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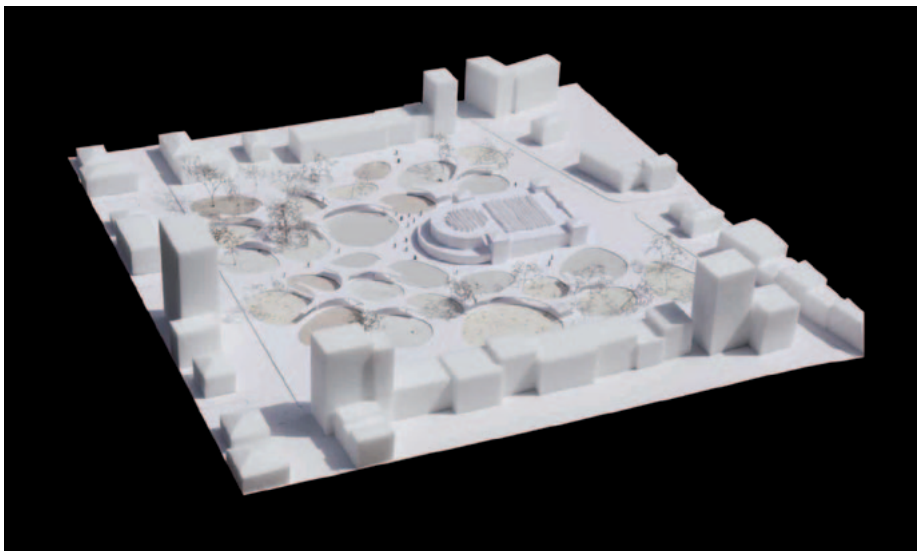
9 - SANTO-TIRSO (PT), WINNER - FOODLAB SANTO TIRSO > SEE CATALOGUE P.161

Public and private

10 - LUND (SE), SPECIAL MENTION - PLAYFUL PATH!
> SEE CATALOGUE P.151

The winning proposal, *FOODlab* Santo Tirso (fig.9), is based on a simple but efficient device, a pergola that covers the whole open space, but is cut out in organic forms to create smaller areas. The double scale of this device ensures the continuity of the intervention while offering individuals, collectives or entrepreneurs –through the fragmentation into almost domestic-sized enclosures in varied oval forms– different opportunities to find their place.

Playful path

The title of one of the special mentions in Lund (SE), *Playful Path!* (fig.10), describes an interesting way to relate to the new input, in this case a railway station (fig.11). Rather than focusing on the infrastructural node, the project proposes a collection of clusters running parallel to the tracks, and threaded by a pedestrian zig-zagging line that goes in and out of the clusters, turning them into

open courtyards or enclosed piazzas, creating a gradient from public to private with a rich collection of intermediate spaces that combine commercial and collective uses.

The relation with the station is tangential; it barely touches the playful path halfway, but on the side of its cross section. Walking or cycling to the station from any of the clusters can be envisaged as a pleasant and entertaining experience, with plenty of different scales and functions in the buildings and spaces along the way.

On the other hand, the clusters are protected from the noise of passing trains by an embankment which builds a landscaped horizon for the taller buildings along this side. It is interesting to note that the station access is understated, a small cabin in this landscaped horizon, highlighting the connectivity factor versus the heroic infrastructure approach of other proposals.
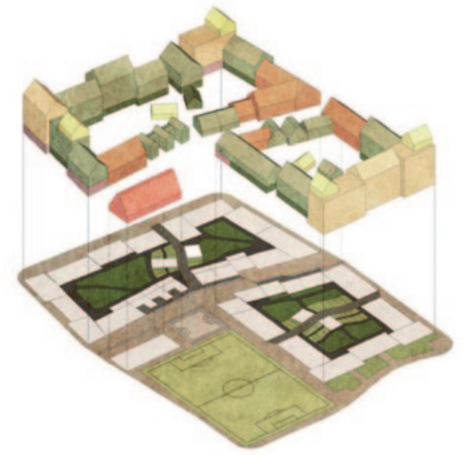
Double landscape

In Molfetta (IT) the city brief states that "The activities that were supporting the local economy, especially those referred to the sea activities, are now downsized" and the waterfront needs to be reconsidered as a place to live in, for locals, but also as a base for a new economy based on innovative formats for tourism (fig.12).

The winning design, *Hold the Line* (fig.13) addresses this issue in a literal manner, establishing a framework for relations between locals and visitors on two levels that overlap without mixing. A landscape of "fishing town" is enhanced, while an abstract landscape of clean geometry is traced above it.

The intervention is a lightweight structure of fine straight lines that runs along the waterfront, barely touching the ground, serving as an elevated promenade, pedestrian and bicycle connection on a platform level, but also framing and activating the ground level for more static activities.

11 - LUND (SE)

12 - MOLFETTA (IT)

13 - MOLFETTA (IT), WINNER - HOLD THE LINE > SEE CATALOGUE P.153

15 - ST PÖLTEN (AT), WINNER - JU(MP) IN THE WATER - KISS THAT FROG > SEE CATALOGUE P.171

14 - ST PÖLTEN (AT)

16 - STAVANGER (NO)

Temporary public landscapes

In St Pölten (AT) the news is that a former reserve of land is now ready to absorb a rising demand of housing, which will be well connected to public transport and city services (fig.14).

The winning proposal, *Ju(MP) in the Water - Kiss that Frog* (fig.15) is based on the logical assumption that the development of this large piece of land will not happen all in one go, and proposes a strategy to ensure that the intermediate situations are attractive. A series of foundational clusters are scattered over the

terrain. The intermediate land is developed as a landscape of temporary public use, until the time comes for it to be built up, with strategically planted vegetation which will grow in the process to be incorporated in the housing development in the future.

Tempered intermediate space

Several kinds of new public space appear in the winning proposal *Forus LABing,* the winner in the site of Stavanger (NO), where the question is how to use the resources generated by oil to generate a viable lifestyle for the post-oil economy (fig.16).

One example is the covered space connecting different buildings, a lightweight greenhouse-like construction, part of a strategy they define using Reyner Banham's paraphrase *The Well Tempered Environment.* This is an inexpensive way to create a viable public square in this cold latitude, but it is also a buffer to facilitate climate comfort in the entrances of the buildings themselves; a lively public area can be expected to thrive, even in the coldest periods (fig.17).

At the scale of landscape, management of post oil industrial archaeology through colour (white) can change a collective perception of gloom into a desirable landscape identity (fig.18).
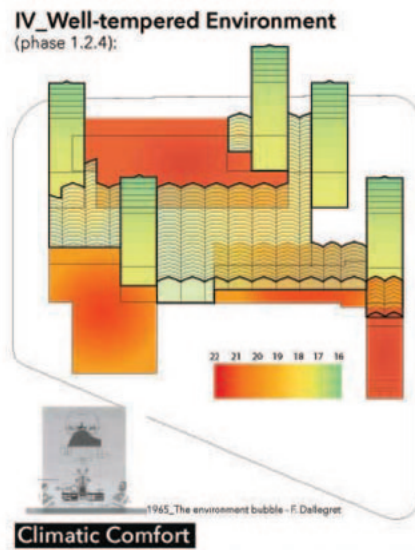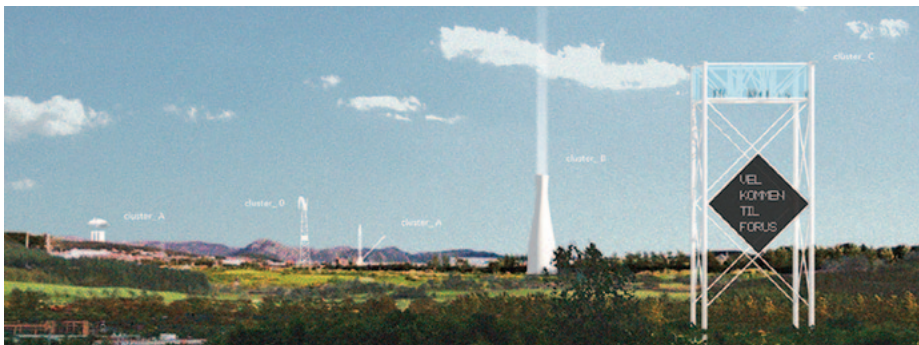

17 - STAVANGER (NO), WINNER - FORUS LABING > SEE CATALOGUE P.175

Conclusion

With the above examples we can see how the negotiation between a new input and an existing situation can generate a new condition, a new context for interaction, new kinds of public spaces.

It is important to be alert and identify such new conditions of the public, as they are the mainstay of the development of our societies. When societies evolve, the written or unwritten rules governing intermediate spaces become richer and more sophisticated. The development of a civilization depends on its ability to find contexts to share and exchange in deeper and safer ways, for successful civilizations are those that achieved a balance between the individual and the collective.

These projects have the potential to contribute to the development of our societies by exploring further fields for public exchange.

18 - STAVANGER (NO), WINNER - FORUS LABING > SEE CATALOGUE P.175

HOW TO CREATE POSITIVE DYNAMICS FROM A DIFFICULT SITUATION?

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Regenerative Metamorphoses of Inhabited Milieux and Project Culture

In situations of serious difficulty and disorientation, the need for metamorphoses of inhabited milieux is all the greater in problem situations and emphasises how the project can make use of the vitalising resources of the milieu. What it means is giving up predatory practices and devising mixed, immersive systems with the capacity to regenerate inhabited milieux, and which acknowledge the interactions between living organisms and their environments, an approach that runs counter to a toxic culture based on separation and the unlimited exploitation of resources.

In this move towards regenerative metamorphoses, a different way of managing resources is crucial: "A resource is as much for living as for thinking, it no longer separates them. So from this re-sourcing of the resource we could begin again, take our cues from it, in order to live and think at the same time."[1] Which relates to projects that seek to exploit or generate changes based in the interweaving of scales, while at the same time being anchored in elemental, agricultural and landscape resources.

Supporting emerging practices

By contrast with centralised and normative systems, at local level emergent alternative ways of inhabiting are developing, halfway between sharing and emancipation. These strategies, devised outside "planning" mechanisms, employ practical methods that are growing in scale: shared gardens, eco-production, permaculture, exchanges of knowledge and know-how, recycling, artistic practices… How can architecture participate in these lively practices?

For example, urban agroecology is emerging as a basis for reinventing human settlements from a necessarily eco-rhythmic and eco-political perspective.[2] This entails being on the lookout for approaches that redefine the places and interconnections not only of the urban and rural between them, but also of their common immersion in living nature: for

living and elemental urban entities need to be envisioned with appropriate food-producing activities (market gardening, agricultural parks, woodland, meadows, vines, urban farms, green roofs, shared gardens…), directed at permaculture, short supply chains, protection of the water and soil systems, recycling, multiple energy sources, access to and preservation of cultivatable land…

While today, water, air and land are not intact because of human industries, the elemental remains a living force which speaks of the secret of the Earth and of life. In their material, imaginative and symbolic renaissance, the four elements seem even to regenerate matter and the poetics of inhabited milieux. Bachelard explored the oneiric power of earth, water, air and fire, which are primordial and renewable materials that have the property of taking us beyond ourselves. They have the imaginative force to "be one" with the world and to be "part of its living totality" through a "holistic and dynamic vision that is re-emerging in the epistemology of contemporary ecology".[3] The power of their material imagination – material because it is water or fire or air that governs images – which is strictly speaking unreal, surreal or hyperreal, has an equally substantive reality but one which differs in nature from that procured by scientific knowledge, one that combines with the evolution of ways of living. As a result, numerous possibilities are opened up:

- transformations of divided heritages through eco-systemic interconnecting between cultures, but also between the human and the nonhuman;
- the interweaving of spatiotemporal scales, between micro-places, city, metropolis, bioregion and globalisation;
- adaptations to the digital era, capable of linking vernacular cultures and innovations;
- implementations of socio-spatial processes able to encourage communality.

The Europan projects submitted under this theme propose other connections, global and local, urban and rural, other territorialised

sociopolitical forms of organisation, moulded by dynamics of interweaving: the key is to be able to adjust to conditions, to adapt to local situations with their specificities, rather than making a *tabula rasa* or sticking to pre-established recipes. The combination of creating distinctive places, living milieux and political projects proved decisive in the reconfigurations that link scales, community equity and diversity, project and consultation. The challenge, therefore, is not to define the style of an object to be built from a fixed programme, but to respond to contemporary changes on the basis of priorities and lines of force in which accommodation and

1 - JYVÄSKYLÄ (FI)

2 - LINZ (AT)
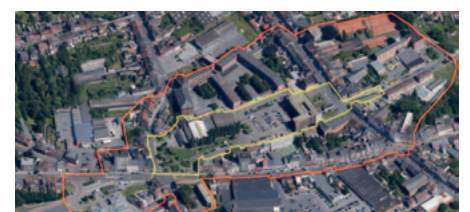
3 - CHARLEROI (BE)

4 - BARCELONA (ES)

5 - BARCELONA (ES), WINNER - IN MOTION > SEE CATALOGUE P.203

consultation, territory and architecture, are interwoven. Today, the demand for frugality and for collaboration is making ground, both as a necessity and a value. Within this dynamic, the minor proves major and encounter is empowerment.

On the one hand the substance of this article addresses three different milieux, each with common goals: districts-intensity, islands-connectivity and shrinkage-resilience. On the other hand, three basic emblematic attitudes are shared by the winning teams: frameworks, inputs and pre-existences.

Intensifying districts

The first group of sites in the 13th edition of Europan share the common issue of how to intensify an urban district and thereby create positive impacts on the surroundings.

The district of Kortepohja in Jyväskylä (FI), featured as a large community of students living in a modernistic 1960s urban planning environment, aspires to be densified and revitalized through residential-led mixed-use development (fig.1). The same challenge appears in Linz (AT), in a large socially mixed neighbourhood, developed over the last 50 years as a "housing zoo" (fig.2). At Gilly, Charleroi (BE), the municipality is keen to create a multi-functional public square as a new attractor at the heart of the quarter (fig.3). The Barcelona (ES) site is located in La Marina district (fig.4), which is undergoing conversion from a former industrial site to a new mixed-use area with the associated challenge of attracting compatible economic and residential activity.

**Reframing infrastructures
as a procedure over time**

The first attitude noted by several teams is the introduction of a new infrastructural framework to trigger social mixes and diversity. A cultural infrastructure is conceived as a procedure, as a platform for negotiation and urban discussion, a space for programmed uncertainty.

T. Sieverts[4] reflected on the socio-economic conditions required for a fine-grained mixed-use milieu, highlighting the "dimension of time" and "for the purpose of longevity and to save resources, the building must in future be capable of adjustments to changing demands". But how can a flexible infrastructural framework be developed at political level? Or at a level that will permit it to become the infrastructure of the infrastructures?

The winning project in Barcelona, *In Motion* (fig.5), as the name suggests, is a reaction against a static city model. The team proposes an urban infrastructure as an unspecialized collection of stacked slabs "with high resistance to municipal management", and flexible enough to allow for a wide range of uncertain uses throughout time.

In Charleroi, the runner-up *The Heterotopia Pool* (fig.6), also proposes a new infrastructure. This time the "social pool" spatially organizes the core of the district, attracting new users and consolidating the existing activities.
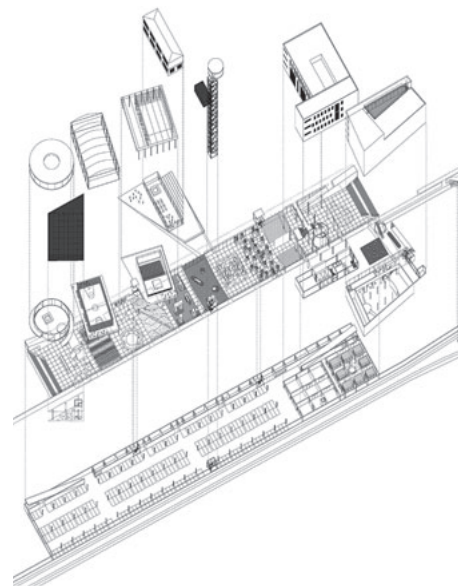
6 - CHARLEROI (BE), RUNNER-UP - THE HETEROTOPIA POOL > SEE CATALOGUE P.212
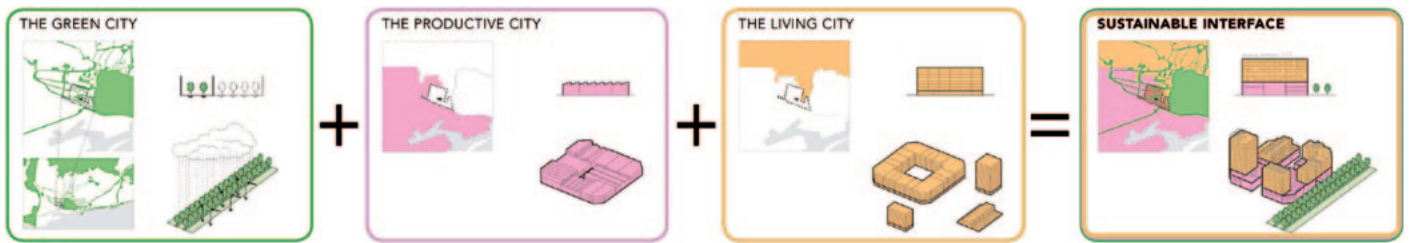
8 - BARCELONA (ES), RUNNER-UP - SUSTAINABLE INTERFACE > SEE CATALOGUE P.205

Rethinking typologies as a mediator between public and private

Inventing new typologies to regenerate an urban fragment and to activate a cultural and social realm is another common approach. New typologies are able to articulate the potential of the spaces that are intermediate between public and private, sharing a promise to build a community. But which new types are needed to manage the interactions between the public, collective and private space?

In the winning entry in Jyväskylä, *The Nolli Gardens* (fig.7), the friction between street space and private space is explored and confronted with a modernistic urban plan in order to define what a community is. The proposed block is based on a sequence of co-inhabited and shared spaces at different levels and scales. A collective courtyard and a series of common uses – the "Nolli Gardens" – enhance the social interaction.

In Barcelona, the runner-up *Sustainable Interface* (fig.8), plans a typology called "The Workshop House for City Starters", a sustainable interface between the Green, the Productive and the Living City, that provides affordable housing and working spaces for a new socio-economic reality. A new relationship with the street is also established through productive and robust plinths.

The winning project *In-between* (fig.9), at Streefkerk (NL), also deals with the transition between the private, the neighbourhood and the territorial scales, and in so doing, develops a prototype. The brief calls for the reconstruction of a plot of land between the river Lek and its hinterland, a result of the installation of dike reinforcement designed to provide protection against rising water levels. The project takes advantage of the new artificial topography, and splits the intimate and public spaces into two levels, with a new shared space located in between them at dike-street level, which becomes "an open field of possibilities both for the inhabitants and for the development of the city".


7 - JYVÄSKYLÄ (FI), WINNER - THE NOLLI GARDENS > SEE CATALOGUE P.223

Reinterpreting heritage as the substance for the future

The third trend anchors the works to the site's existing values in order to promote a vibrant neighbourhood. The pre-existing cultural landscape and the reinterpretation of heritage are the two main forces used to trigger a process of densification. But which kind of new and existing values should guide the production of the city? And how can these values be trans-
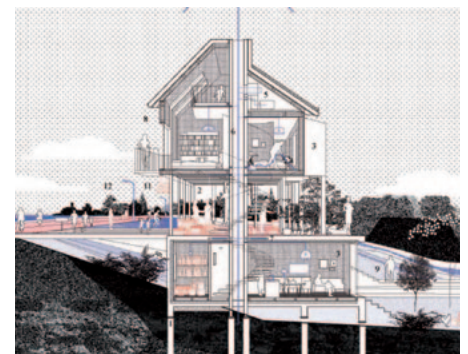
9 - STREEFKERK (NL), WINNER - IN-BETWEEN
> SEE CATALOGUE P.249
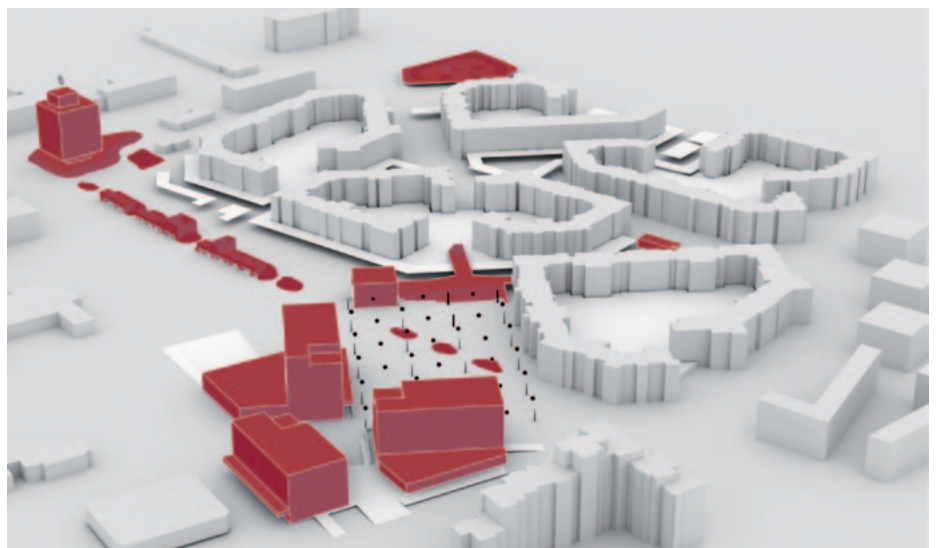
10 - LINZ (AT), WINNER - ALL TOMORROW'S PARTIES > SEE CATALOGUE P.233

11 - ØRSTA (NO), WINNER - CONNECTING ØRSTA > SEE CATALOGUE P.241

formed into the heritage of the next decades? *All Tomorrow's Parties* (fig.10), the winning entry in Linz, works at two different levels, on a series of projective interventions at the borders of the site, and on a participatory strategy around a series of workshops in the inner parts of the district. Both strategies are based in the local understanding of the neighbourhood as a "network of manifold collectives", which are converted in the urban substance for a future development.

Reconnecting islands

The second set of sites is characterized by the notion of insularity and the matter of how to reconnect urban islands at different scales, from global to local, from the physical to the cultural dimension.

In Ørsta (NO), the goal is to give the inner city a new central position in the region and better connections with its surroundings. At Bruck an der Mur (AT), a piece of land bordering the railway tracks and expressway, is similarly waiting to play a central role in the region and to be reconnected with the city, by way of the arrival of a new railway stop. In the case of Warsaw (PL), Cubryna Garden is isolated between the lanes of a new expressway, and aspires to open up to the riverside boulevards, buoyed by the design of the exhibition of stone treasures rescued from the Vistula. At Marl (DE), the large mining area of Auguste Victoria Colliery Shaft 3/7 is scheduled for closure in 2015, and the project brief therefore calls for new visions for a 21st century industrial site. The Azenha do Mar (PT) site is a recent fishing settlement located between the agricultural landscape and the ocean, looking for an economic model that combines responsible tourism and a unique local experience.

Shaping stimulants to welcome processes of interaction

Within this subtopic some teams work with the aim of shaping new spatial frameworks at an urban scale to host new programmes, to integrate existing uses and to reinforce connectivity.

In their *Collage City,* C. Rowe and F. Koetter[5] listed a set of "stimulants, a-temporal and necessarily transcultural, as possible *objets trouvés* in the urbanistic collage", such as memorable streets, stabilizers, or splendid public terraces. But what kind of stimulants can help us to reconnect the different urban fragments, and how can these elements attract new economic and social processes of interaction?

At Ørsta, the winning project *Connecting Ørsta* (fig.11), plans to establish clear links and identities through three urban connectors, "the Urban, the Park and the Educational connection", that are anchored in a chain of new centralities and spaces of exchange, "the Squares". Public space is understood as the backbone of future development.

In a special mention in Marl, *The Spine* (fig.12), proposes the eponymous entity as a flexible spatial feature which allows the first steps of implementation to be taken without large-scale investment, addressing the uncertainty of how the area will evolve in the future.
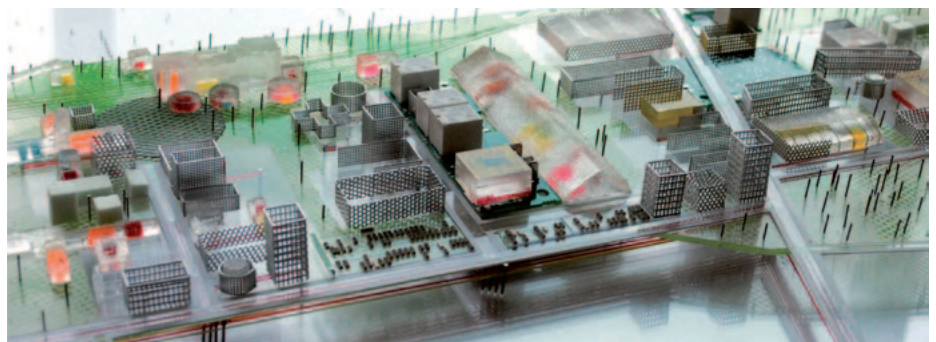
12 - MARL (DE), SPECIAL MENTION - THE SPINE > SEE CATALOGUE P.239

13 - MARL (DE), WINNER - WEEE MARL! > SEE CATALOGUE P.237
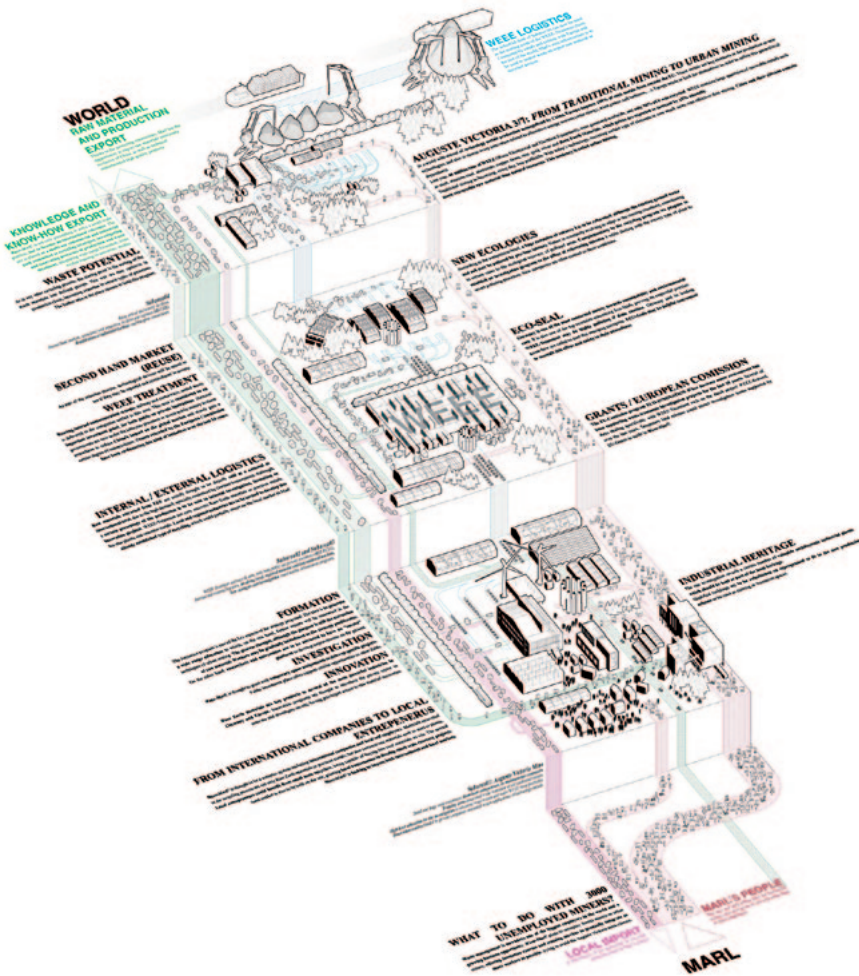
Devising programmes to reconnect the sites with their contexts

Introducing innovative programmes to recon-nect the sites with their contexts is the most frequent response. The new links can be social, economic, ecological or cultural in nature, but all of them stand, as the French sociologist Alain Touraine suggested, between the extremes of "economic globalization" and "cultural orientation to a place". But what kind of new programmes can mediate between the local and the global, subverting the idea of proximity?

The winning project in Marl, *WEEE Marl!* (fig.13), is an economic and social strategy triggered by a new programme, a WEEE – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling plant – that seeks to cushion the shock of the 3000 jobs lost with the closure of the mine. The transition "from traditional mining to urban mining" is anchored in geopolitical reasons and facts, such as recycling being the world's second largest employer after agriculture, or that a ton of soil from a gold-mine contains less gold than a ton of smartphones. The former mining site becomes a platform for research and
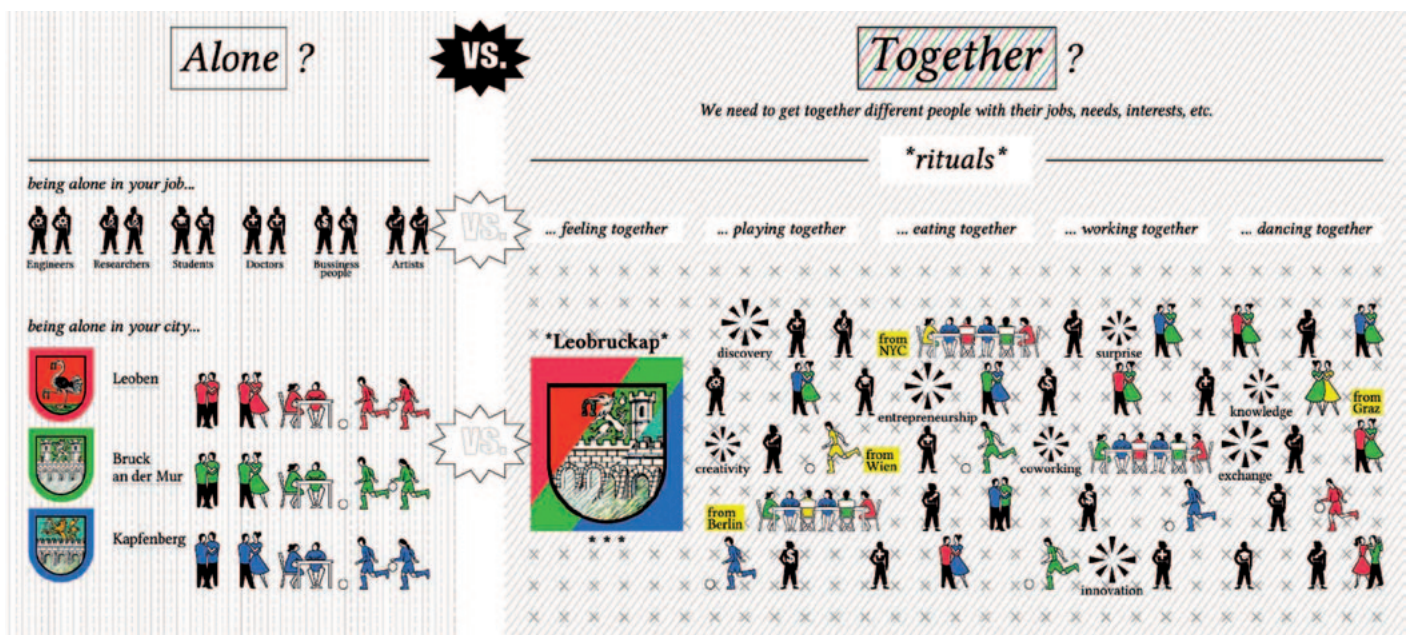
14 - BRUCK/MUR (AT), RUNNER-UP - TOGETHER > SEE CATALOGUE P.209

15 - WARSZAWA (PL), RUNNER-UP - APPORT PLUS SUPPORT > SEE CATALOGUE P.254

knowledge exchange that seeks to strengthen the local environment as a complement to internationalization.

Decoding the environment
to open up an enclave

Some teams put their faith in the values of the natural and social environment as levers to open up an enclave in the city-archipelago. O.M. Ungers and R. Koolhaas suggested that only through a "process of identification" will the potential of urban islands be preserved, and "for the city dweller, the environment will be legible again, and thereby endowed with human quality".[6] But how can the sites achieve a high degree of permeability through legibility?

While the runner-up in Bruck an der Mur, *Together* (fig.14), anchors the project in the communities from a regional perspective, channelling the citizens' voices into a strategy called "politics of spatial cooperation", another runner-up, *Apport plus Support* (fig.15), this time in Warsaw, re-integrates the site into the city by treating Cubryna Garden as part of a larger territorial-scale natural system.

The winning project in Azenha do Mar, *Limenochora* (fig.16), suggests specific interventions inspired by the logics of local economic models and the archetypal image of the traditional Portuguese house, in order to build a shared community identity.

Resisting shrinkage

The third collection consists of sites that are undergoing processes of urban shrinkage. The last decade has seen the launch of slogans in response to shrinkage, such as "the future is less", or "progress without growth", supporting the idea that "shrinkage will be in future considered as normal a process of development as growth".[7] The challenge now is to define which new alliances between city and society are needed to lead that process of normalisation.

The city of Selb (DE) is experiencing a process of continual shrinkage following the post-industrial collapse of the porcelain sector. The goal is to activate the inner city, with special attention to vacant properties. A similar situation, although originating in the reunification of Germany, is found in Gera (DE). An extensive city centre wasteland, a result of demolition, is waiting for an attractive mixed-use development. At La Corrèze (FR) a rural context outside metropolitan influence is proposed for the quest for new visions of rurality, to be tested in three different communities: Ussel, Argentat, and Turenne. In the site of Goussainville (FR), the historical village, affected by CDG airport, metropolitan and agricultural influences, is trying to find new forms of occupancy compatible with the constraints.

Infiltrating new rules to steer
a regeneration process

A first shared position on the topic is the establishment of a new political framework, composed of new rules, to steer a process of regeneration over time. New rules become a platform for critical participation in order to allow new forms of societal organization. If the urban space can no longer be planned as before, what kind of societal rulebooks are needed?

16 - AZENHA DO MAR (PT), WINNER - LIMENOCHORA > SEE CATALOGUE P.199
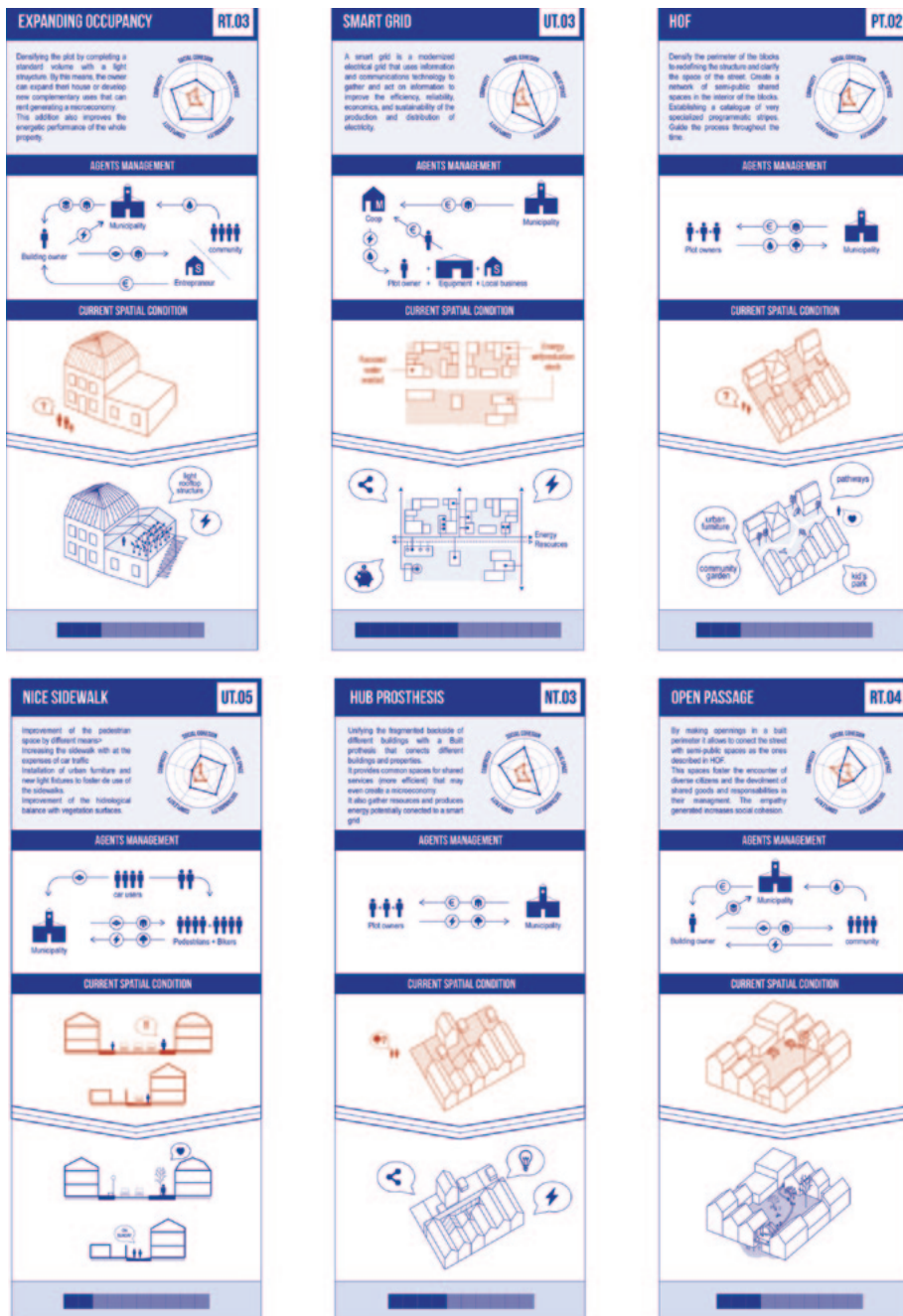
(fig.18), plans to colonise the inner city wasteland with a "Stadtgarten" in order to resolve the negative perceptions of a no man's land and to redefine the space of the street. In a second step, the garden will be programmed by pioneering entrepreneurs and public facilities. Once developed, the garden will be ready to welcome new investors and dwellers.

Revisiting the everyday life to build a community

The most common attitude in response to shrinkage is the development of pre-existing potential to create a different vision and positive prospects. If production of the city and the cultural landscape are organized around the inhabitants' own dynamics, instead of ambitious master plans or financial speculation, which inclusive narratives can provide the best operation fields?

"I will cut a bit of basil for dinner in the shared kitchen garden, and then I will have a look at the most recent table that Richard is making in his carpenter's workshop." This is a quote from one of the winning projects in La Corrèze, *Sharing Islands* (fig.19), which tries to improve the quality of "community life" through the infiltration of common programmes for everyday life.

The runner-up in Goussainville, *Des racines et des ailes* (fig.20), is likewise focused on local potential – the forest – understood as a unifying resource with a social, ecological and economic role. "As an apprentice carpenter, I was looking to settle down in the region. The consolidation of the forestry guilds in old Goussainville offers a solid network and excellent visibility to establish my own business," Mr Delorme states.

These new frameworks also update the role of the architect to that of a social agent between the three economic forces: state, private, civic. In the light of the disinvestment agenda, how can the involvement of private owners in the fabrication of the city be managed?
Urban Toolkit (fig.17), the winning project in Selb, is an open and never ending process based on a toolkit and a series of goals, "urban indicators", to deal with uncertainty and to offer an alternative to rigid plans. As a first step, the authors suggest the creation of an Office for Urban Regeneration to mediate between all the players. The system promotes small interventions that take advantage of previously hidden opportunities, including a wide range of hybrid funding modalities, from top-down to bottom-up, which blur the boundaries between the public and private.
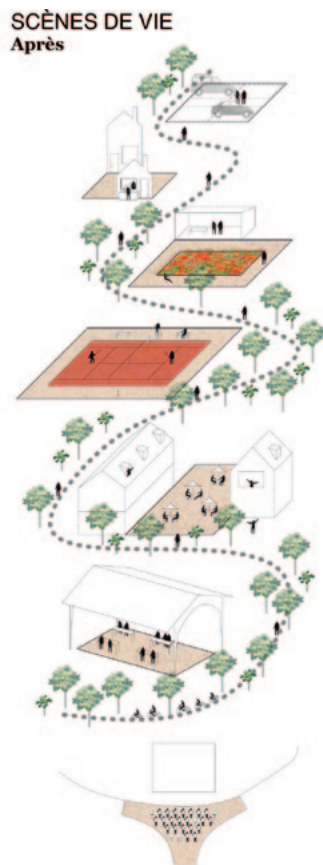
Devising new landscapes to attract new inputs

The execution of preparatory work or interim projects, to keep a site alive while waiting for the arrival of investment, is a different approach. The question is, how can the first signs of transformation be triggered as one of the crucial moments of identification?
Vacancy is one of the features of shrinkage, "post-industrial landscapes become part of the city in the form of wasteland. Transitional situations between built-up and vacant land are productive zones, … experimental fields for a new type of urban landscape. A preference for life on the urban periphery can be realized in inner-city locations".[8] But which kind of new urban landscapes can attract new residents?
The special mention in Gera, *Das ist Gera*

18 - GERA (DE), SPECIAL MENTION - DAS IST GERA
> SEE CATALOGUE P.217

Accommodating latent, local and trans-local resources

Other positive forms of health, solidarity and frugality can drive fertile projects for territorial transformation. Each will be a different way of stressing the importance of the micro but also of processes capable of contributing to the conception of broader intermediate scales as well as to the renewal of the conditions of possibility for living together. An ethics of care, of solicitude, of frugality and of reconnection, pathways that seek to reinvent other ways of making the city, making architecture, making the world. The challenges are simultaneously political, scientific, aesthetic and ethical, in the quest to establish the renewed conditions needed to create possibilities for eco-rhythms between human beings and living environments.

Each will define its possibility conditions in terms of diversities of practices and knowledge, of heritages and innovations, founded in a reversal of imaginative visions and value systems.

SCÈNES DE VIE
Après

Potager partagé - *Shared Vegetable Garden / ARGENTAT*

Tennis partagé - *Shared Tennis / ARGENTAT*

19 - LA CORRÈZE (FR), WINNER - SHARING ISLANDS > SEE CATALOGUE P.230

[1] FRANÇOIS JULLIEN, *DE L'ÊTRE AU VIVRE*, GALLIMARD, 2015

[2] ROBERTO D'ARIENZO, CHRIS YOUNÈS (DIR.), *RECYCLER L'URBAIN*, MÈTISPRESSES, 2014

[3] JEAN-JACQUES WUNENBURGER, "GASTON BACHELARD ET LA MÉDIANCE DES MATIÈRES ARCHE-COSMIQUES", IN *PHILOSOPHIE, VILLE ET ARCHITECTURE. LA RENAISSANCE DES QUATRE ÉLÉMENTS* (DIR. C. YOUNÈS ET TH. PAQUOT), LA DÉCOUVERTE, 2002, PP. 27-41

[4] THOMAS SIEVERTS, *CITIES WITHOUT CITIES, AN INTERPRETATION OF THE ZWISCHENSTADT*, ROUTLEDGE, NY, 2003. (FIRST PUBLISHED 1997 BY VIEWEG)

[5] COLIN ROWE AND FRED KOETTER, COLLAGE CITY, THE MIT PRESS, CAMBRIDGE MA, 1978

[6] OSWALD MATHIAS UNGERS AND REM KOOLHAAS, THE CITY IN THE CITY – BERLIN: A GREEN ARCHIPELAGO, LARS MÜLLER PUBLISHERS, ZÜRICH, 2013. (FIRST PUBLISHED, DIE STADT IN DER STADT – BERLIN: EIN GRÜNES ARCHIPEL, 1977)

[7] PHILIPP OSWALT, HYPOTHESES ON URBAN SHRINKING IN THE 21ST CENTURY, PROJECT SHRINKING CITIES, 2006

[8] IBA PRINCIPLES. GUIDELINES OF THE CABINET REGARDING THE SETUP OF THE IBA STADTUMBAU 2010, 2002

20 - GOUSSAINVILLE (FR), RUNNER-UP - DES RACINES ET DES AILES > SEE CATALOGUE P.220

THE ADAPTABLE CITY / 2
Europan 13 Results

NATIONAL POINTS OF VIEW

Two Walloon sites were proposed for the 13th session of Europan Belgium. The first at Libramont-Chevigny, the heart of an agricultural area in the centre of Belgian Luxembourg, the second in Charleroi, a town in the process of adjusting to deindustrialisation. For each of these sites, after a reminder of the question raised, the selected proposals and the jury's reasons were succinctly summarised. These elements were followed by a few general reflections.

POINT OF VIEW OF A JURY MEMBER
JEAN MICHEL DEGRAEVE (BE), architect-urbanist, member of the Europan 13 Belgian jury.

Between Disillusion and Openness

"Heart of Libramont"

The town of Libramont (fig.1) is looking to revitalise its station district in order to turn it into the "Heart of Libramont". After several fruitless attempts in previous Europan Belgium session, an agreement was reached with the SNCB (Belgian railway company) to offer a commission to the winner of Europan 13. The aim of the ambitious programme is to design a "21st-century station district".

In the first session, the jury felt that none of the projects offered an adequate response. Three partial responses were selected for the second round. In the final deliberations, the jury decided that none of the proposals merited a prize, only awarding a special mention to the project *50 shades of green* (fig.2). The jury appreciated the green aspect of the landscape continuities along the railway lines, but was disappointed by the lack of definition in the housing typologies and the exit from the railway underpass.

This jury decision reflected a certain disillusionment about the responses. Apart from traffic infrastructures and buildings, a station should be a place of interchange between inhabitants and a medium for events or activities, for example – in the case of Libramont – around agriculture. More broadly, the jury was disappointed by the failure of the projects to place themselves within the wider context. A station constitutes an "urban room" on the railway lines, with functional, economic, landscape or poetic influences that should drive the development of a city. None of the projects tackled this "station territory" dimension.

1 - LIBRAMONT (BE)

2 - LIBRAMONT (BE), SPECIAL MENTION - 50 SHADES OF GREEN > SEE CATALOGUE P.97

3 - CHARLEROI (BE)

"Place en volte-face" (rotating the square) in Charleroi (Gilly)

The second site is in the old village of Gilly, one of the secondary hubs of the town of Charleroi (fig.3). The local authorities want to make the area around Place Destrée more attractive. At the heart of a block of public services, adjacent to the community centre and various public amenities, this space is invaded by cars and surrounded by disparate architectures. The "rotation" of this space would be a source of revitalisation for Gilly.

Among the ideas submitted, the jury chose two types of approach: the creation of a large, unifying public space, and a sequence of spaces along an axis. It was nevertheless felt that while some projects offered interesting partial responses, none achieved the level needed to be a winner. It let the municipality choose between four proposals, while also nominating one runner-up and one special mention for each type of approach.

A large unifying space…

The first approach entailed the creation of a large, unifying public space across the whole site. This option seeks to be radical enough to generate the urban intensity needed to give Gilly a new start. It does not freeze the site and opens up the potential for a diversity of uses. The runner-up project – *The Heterotopia Pool* (fig.4) – seeks to create the "physical space of utopia" by dropping a large part of the action

4 - CHARLEROI (BE), RUNNER-UP - THE HETEROTOPIA POOL > SEE CATALOGUE P.212

5 - CHARLEROI (BE), SPECIAL MENTION - SUR LES PAVÉS, LA PLACE ! > SEE CATALOGUE P.213

site by one level. This 235 x 32 m "pool", located on top of a car park, is completed by a panoramic tower. This project offers an interesting response. Passing under the adjacent Community Centre, this space links the front and rear of the building. It improves access to the Metro and to the Cultural Centre. Finally, it strengthens the identity and role of the retained public buildings by placing them on "plinths". However, this proposal is likely to be costly in light of the significant work required, in particular demolition/rebuilding all the underpinning of the Town Hall Annex.

The special mention project *Sur les pavés, la place !* (fig.5), proposes converting the current fragmented space into a large collective surface. Covered with continuous triangular patterns of paving modules, this public area is the project's iconic component. A large, undulating empty space, it aims to generate a new perception of the place. This new infrastructure constitutes the unifying base of the existing elements and of new interventions. The latter take the form of sections with mixed uses, positioned like objects that close off the north of the square. However, some of the proposals are unrealistic.

...or a sequence of differentiated spaces?

The second approach proposes a sequence of differentiated spaces along the axis of the subway. By reviving the domestic dimension of the place, it forms part of the history of the district and completes the urban puzzle of Gilly. The runner-up project – *Making Room for Gilly* (fig.6) – is characterised by localised interventions between two subway stations. The subsequent initiatives follow each other from west to east. A new apartment building is erected on Rue du Calvaire, with a new underground sports hall behind. The existing, hard-to-see entrance to the sports complex is turned on to Rue Genard. A new awning is created in front of the former swimming pool, converted to a multipurpose hall. A central square links the different functions. The accesses to the schools are remodelled and a new entrance created behind the Town Hall Annex. Place Destrée is converted to an intermodal platform and a new access is provided to the Cultural Centre. The car parks are scattered across the whole site, and planted to form a green space. While

maintaining the history of the place, this pointillist approach gently transforms an improbable space in order to improve its uses. The project is realistic and works with minimal effort. However, the jury was disappointed by the size of the new building on Rue du Calvaire and the development of the frontage of the Town Hall Annex.

The special mention project *Made it yourself* (fig.7) proposes the creation of two different spaces along the subway axis. The first is a big public square linking Place Destrée and the back of the Town Hall Annex. This building becomes the central point of the project, through the demolition of its southern wing. The frontage of the square is extended with new buildings: a sports complex to the west and a social centre to the north. The second space is the reconstructed facade of Rue Genard, demolished during work on the subway. The interior of the new block thus created is given over to a park on top of a new sports hall and to shared gardens. This structured project respects the existing fabric and the site boundaries. It maintains a balance between hardstanding and plantings. However, this option requires extensive demolition. The jury wondered about the viability of shared gardens in a town centre dynamic.
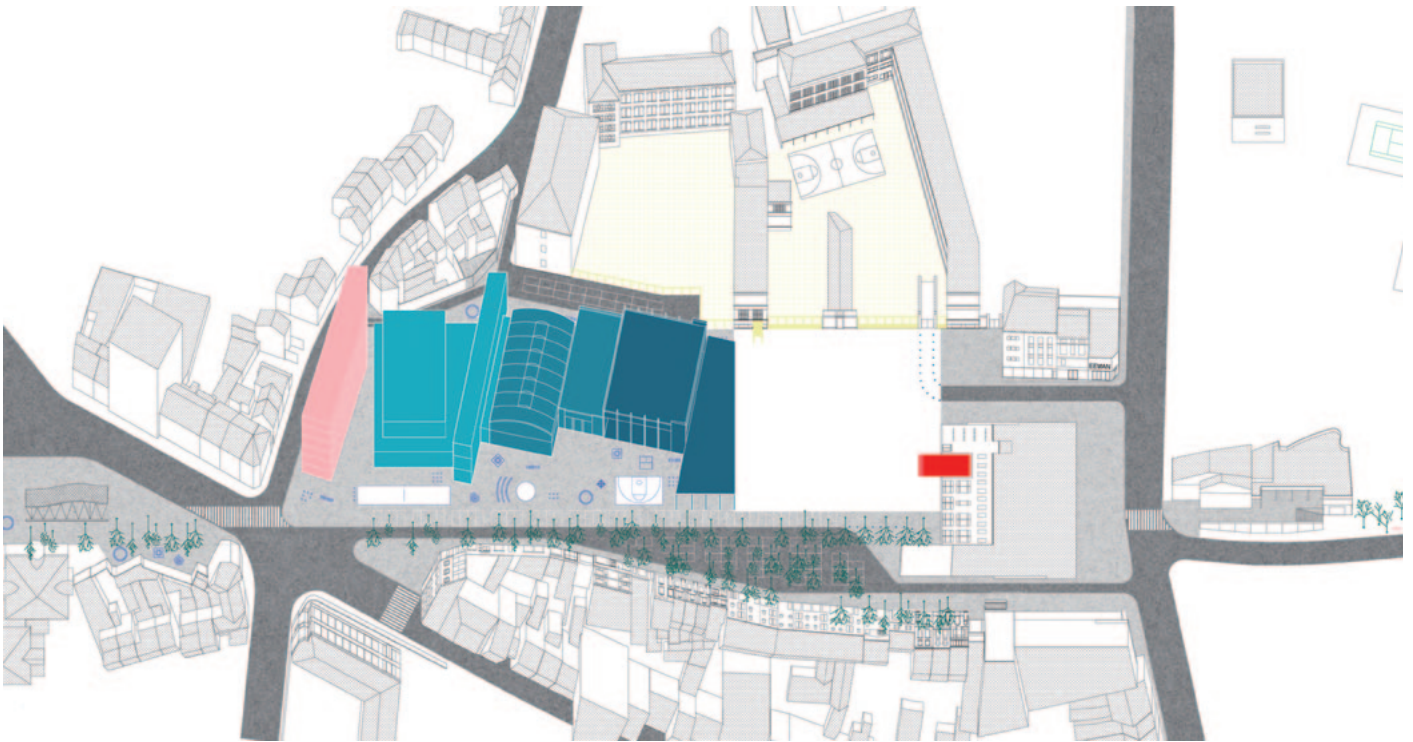
6 - CHARLEROI (BE), RUNNER-UP - MAKING ROOM FOR GILLY > SEE CATALOGUE P.211

To transform the entire site or adapt to the existing fabric?

Out of a concern to open up prospects for implementation, the jury did not make a definitive decision between these two approaches. In addition to a choice between types of solution, it felt that it was the choice of the method of implementation that would dictate which team would be commissioned. The jury identified two major operational categories. Three projects require a total adaptation of the site, on an "all or nothing" basis, with significant demolition prior to reconstruction. Only the *Making Room for Gilly* project uses the existing fabric and proposes

to adapt and complete it through a process of urban acupuncture. This choice between the "tabula rasa" or "working with what's there" is a long-standing issue in urban design. However, it takes on a new dimension with the adaptable city approach. In implementing an adaptable project, should one "knock everything down" or take into account the "already there"?

The choice between these two options lies outside the ambit of an architecture competition. It needs to be made on the basis of financial possibilities and local political objectives. Beyond the question "is renovation cheaper than new?", it is about a cost benefit analysis of uses, funding and management methods, proposed phasing, etc… How are

the necessary demolitions/reconstructions to be funded? What types of car park should be chosen: underground, multi-storey, surface? How to maintain the retained elements in use while the work is underway. Is there not a risk that relocating certain functions may compromise their survival on the site? The municipality will be able to choose the team it works with depending on the answers to these questions.

Between disillusion with the Libramont projects and the new prospects opening up on the Charleroi site, the deliberations of the Belgian jury provided an opportunity to discuss the method of how to design and assess the adaptable city. The need to incorporate the fast changing behaviours of the inhabitants into a lasting project entails going beyond questions of form, and proposing a process whereby the sites would be transformed. The selection of a team to manage this process on the basis of an architectural project raises questions. Graphic representation would seem limited, given the complexity of designing adaptable projects. It would seem necessary to change the methods whereby we manage the transition in our living environment. A transdisciplinary approach between urbanism, sociology and management, together with the use of new methods of communication, are possible avenues to explore for the future direction of Europan. There is no doubt that these questions will be tackled in upcoming sessions.

7 - CHARLEROI (BE), SPECIAL MENTION - GILLY "MADE IT YOURSELF" > SEE CATALOGUE P.213

With a total of eight German very different sites (and one Polish site), the jury in Berlin was constantly required to change perspective and scale. The spectrum of tasks ranged from regional integration measures to spatial and social urban development strategies to classic urban planning and superstructure designs as well as their process-oriented implementation. What they all had in common was the search for ways to effectively deal with an already completed or in part also already "used up" piece of city. The three contrasting pairs of terms – Welfare State Vs. Self-Organization, Segregation Vs. Sharing, and Object Vs. Project (Process) – define the levels in the discussion of current stress ratio on economic, social and planning levels. The boundaries between private and public interests have to be defined anew and/or adapted to our current living conditions.

For this, the Berlin jury for the Europan 13 "Adaptable City 2" competition was searching for innovation potential that stimulates thought and decision-making processes in the municipalities and has the power to produce a new common sense.

POINT OF VIEW OF ONE JURY MEMBER
THORSTEN ERL (DE), architect, urbanist, teacher, member of the German-Polish Europan 13 jury.

Object or Project? The Search for a New "Common Sense" Has Just Begun

1 - SCHWÄBISCH GMÜND (DE), RUNNER-UP - UN-BREAK MY HARDT > SEE CATALOGUE P.167

2 - SCHWÄBISCH GMÜND (DE), RUNNER-UP - CREATIVE CITY > SEE CATALOGUE P.165

How to use new inputs to change urban space?

In this first category two very different sites and tasks confronted each other.

In contrast to quite rural Landsberg and the task of searching for a works housing estate of a new kind (unfortunately, none of the designs were able to provide a real answer to this question), the urban planning upgrading of the Hardt district of the city of Schwäbisch Gmünd – with its multicultural, socially mixed population, the separating effect of the arterial road and the integration of a future campus city – offered an optimal task to develop a city model for the knowledge city of the 21st century from very diverse structures in the sense of adaptability.

It was perhaps due to the small-scale project areas separated from one another, but, in Schwäbisch Gmünd, instead of a winner and a runner-up, three runners-up and one special mention were declared. Altogether, the solutions proposed in the projects could not have been more different. All of them were nonetheless interesting.

The project runner-up, *Un-break my Hardt* (fig.1), did not adhere to the specifications of the project area and specifically as a result of this, offers an overall design that is consistent and also surprising in two respects. The design transforms the row houses of the former military housing area from 1950 into a rigorous block perimeter development. The boldness of giving the cut-off area of the city a palpable identity by means of a strong spatial image, ultimately, with the return to the cityscape of the 19th century and the use of a proven urban planning structure stand vis-à-vis a kind of protection mindset. Between the lines, it is formally possible to read that the dispersed and structured city of the 1950s has ultimately failed.

Another runner-up project, *Creative City* (fig.2), is very different: it precisely develops further this urban idea of an open and versatile urban landscape that is coded in various ways and in doing so, it perhaps searches more intensively for a new urban model. Although the architectures proposed do not structure the space in connection with the row houses, they do already give existing initiatives and offer a new expression. Thereby, what already exists is not only continued on a higher, newer level, but the district is also further programmatically and atmospherically enriched.

Playful Hardt, special mention (fig.3), is a very moderated project. It does not rely on urban space and architectural identities, but is instead the only work in Schwäbisch Gmünd that puts the participation of citizens in the foreground. As a result of the use of the agora concept for the central space, the work is strong in associations. With the help of a participation game arise "sharing ideas", which can be implemented in the public space with the aid of participation certificates. A model for "sharing habitation" organizes the juxtaposition and coexistence of very diverse life models and favours the appropriation of the residential buildings. Logically, along with "sharing goods", barter is introduced as a sustainable economic principle and the existing storage buildings are converted into workshops and exchange locations for residents.
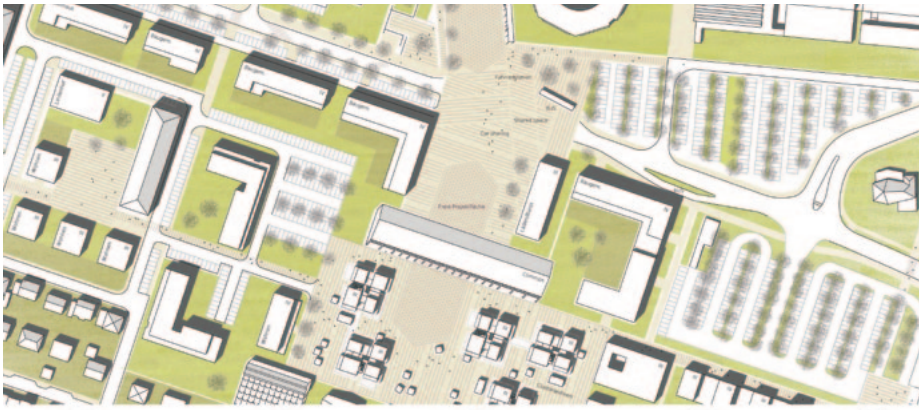
# How to transform physical obstacles into new connections?

Under this second category, the City of Ingolstadt was concerned with the reinvention of a part of the city core that had "become lost" in recent years. Famous for the car industry, Ingolstadt is still a growing city. Nonetheless, the Northern centre of the city has been affected by trading-down effects.

For this reason, the hope was to develop new dynamics by means of self-organized initiatives and temporary uses. For this, a "more" public space is required. With the shared space concept, one possibility had already been found during the site visit.
The winning project, *Waldstrasse* (fig.4), moves the bus station "in front of" the old city to literally reforests the urban space of Harderstrasse and create a *Waldstrasse*, i.e. a *forest road*. Parallel to this, the road is converted into a
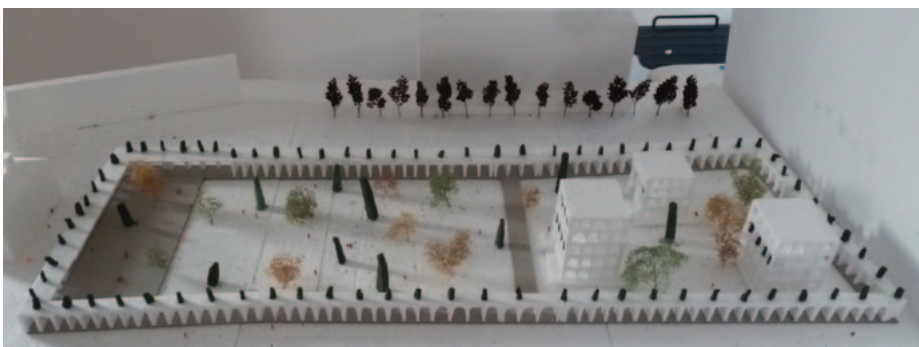
shared space. Meticulously compiled and impressively plotted, the strongly historicizing aesthetic of the design surprises. From the conceptual model of a historical depiction of a forest to the smallest formal aspects such as a road sign, the design indulges in history. One is nearly tempted to interpret the historical "garb" as a "Trojan horse" with which an alternative concept in terms of transport policy is supposed to be introduced in an automobile city.

How to create positive dynamics from a difficult situation?

This rubric comprises three very different participating municipalities with their respective design tasks – Gera, Marl and Selb.
In the Eastern German city of Gera, it has not been possible for the last ten years to initiate a spatially and functionally high-quality and simultaneously economic development for the wasteland in the centre of the city. What remained was an empty space in the middle of Gera. The situation for the Europan participation was very special, as citizens engaged – with the "Ja – für Gera" association – to support the competition along with the City and the IBA Thuringia, both organizationally and financially. In contrast to the two first prizes designs, the special mention project, *Gera's Golden Centre* (fig.5), favours an appropriation of the empty city centre with temporary uses by citizens. What stands in the foreground is the activation of the site. The work therefore reacts in a pragmatic way to the many failures to fill the centre through new construction. Self-organization of events, but also symbolic installations such as a field of sunflowers stand in the foreground.
The approach of the other special mention design, *Das ist Gera* (fig. 6), could not be more different and shows the wide spectrum in which designs can develop. A large arcade structure
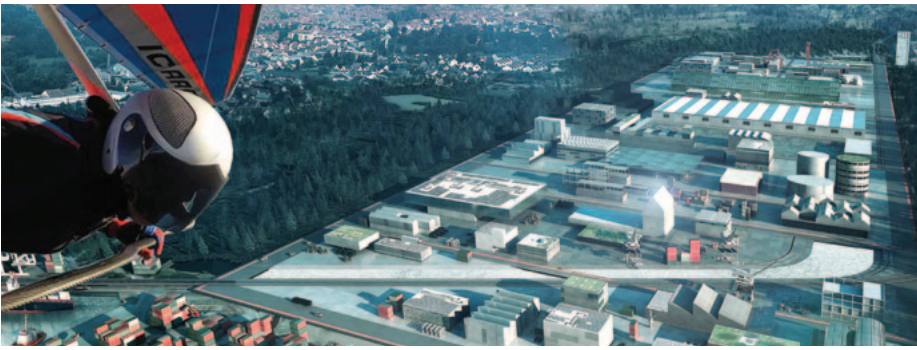
7 - MARL (DE), RUNNER-UP - GREEN GRAY FACTOR > SEE CATALOGUE P.238

frames a courtyard garden, providing a strong spatial image for Gera's centre. The concept surprises and polarizes in equal measure. Does the exaggerated visual presentation only provide consolation for the simple reality in Gera, or can this romantic garden fulfil the role of a contemporary, urban space through an intensive appropriation by citizens?

In Marl, an industrial town on the Northern edge of the Ruhr area, the question that was posed was: "What are the creative, functional and programmatic requirements for a commercial and industrial area in the 21th century?" The task could not be bigger! What was sought was a vision for the future uses of the Auguste Victoria coal mine – in the meantime decommissioned.

While the runner-up project, GReen – GRay Factor (fig.7), pursues a very pragmatic marketing strategy with the largest possible
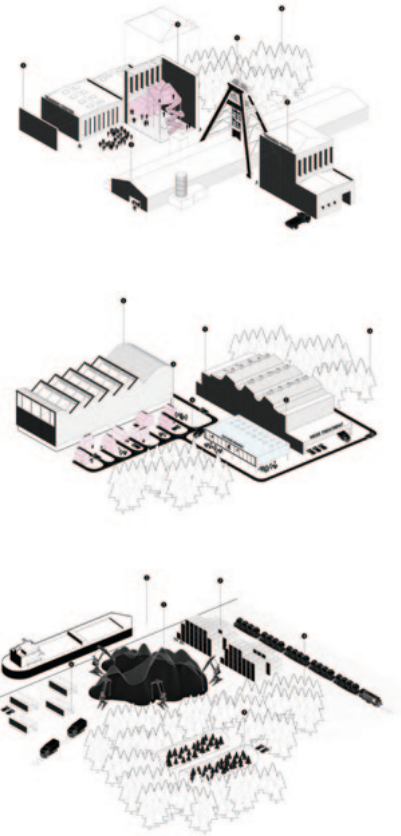

8 - MARL (DE), WINNER - WEEE MARL! > SEE CATALOGUE P.237

commercial development area, the winner WEEE Marl! (fig.8), impresses with its very particular and yet quite astonishingly obvious solution.

WEEE Marl! is surely not a work that one would immediately put on the list with a view to short-term utilization. The clear programmatic commitment is nevertheless enthralling. Somehow between pictogrammatic and poetic-artistic graphics, the work formulates both a current as well as a plausible production idea in a visually powerful manner. WEEE Marl! stands for "Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment". The programmatic reference to the location and its history of many years (coal mining) is adapted to a very special area in raw material extraction, "urban mining". In contrast to many other designs there was no need here of any creative loans from historical images or nostalgic aesthetics. The work also captivates as a result of the fact that the formal level of prospering waste management and recycling enterprises is linked to the informal level of innumerable micro-entrepreneurs and "rubbish collectors".

One cannot help but highlight Selb in the ranks of the Europan 13 sites. This is not only due to the fact that the small town have participated in the European competition for the third time, but also because of the high quality of all three works, which, with their different approaches, precisely depict the
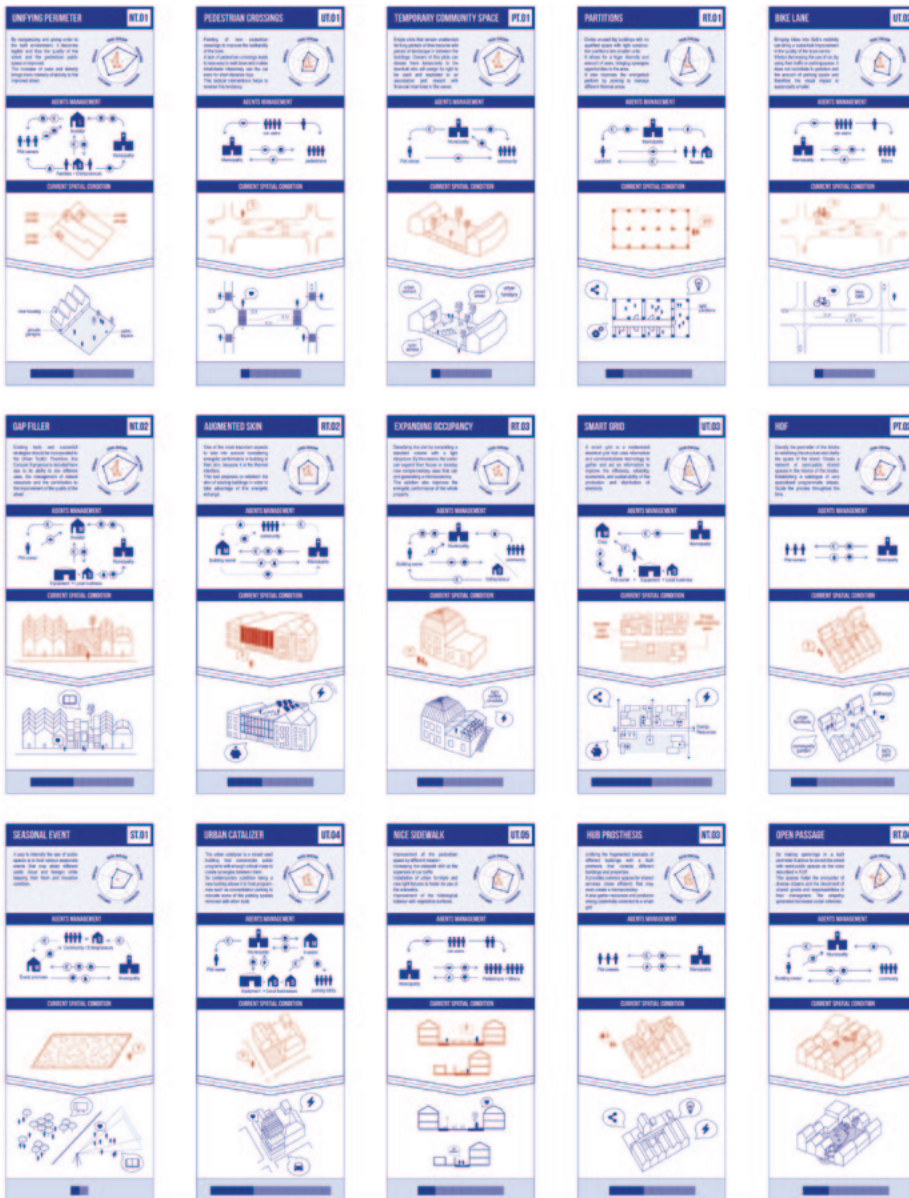
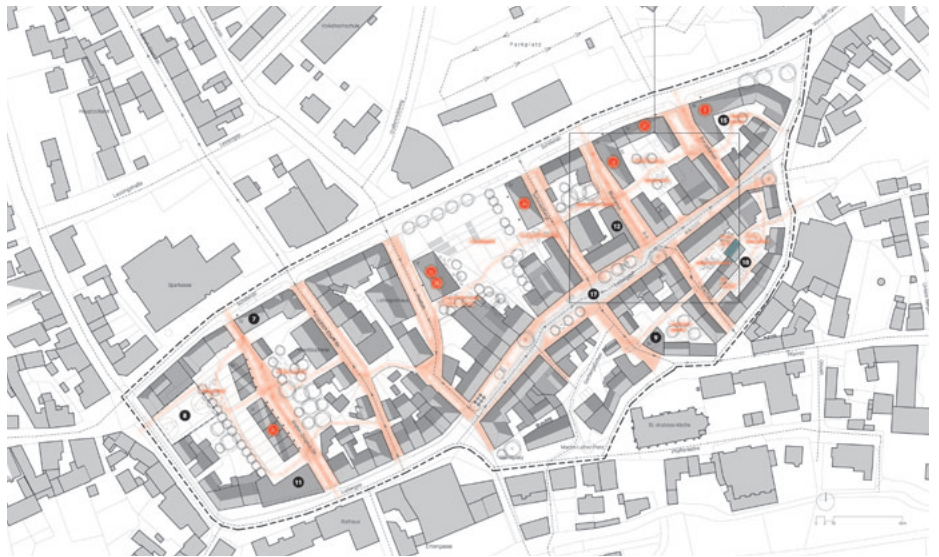9 - SELB (DE), WINNER - URBAN TOOLKIT > SEE CATALOGUE P.245

three sub-theme strategies shown in the national field of the Europan 13 competition in Germany as a whole.

The centre of Selb is facing intensive changes due to the structural crisis. The task was to identify areas for action and offer creative answers to solutions, adapt the urban space in a high-quality manner and reverse the trend without huge primary financial costs.
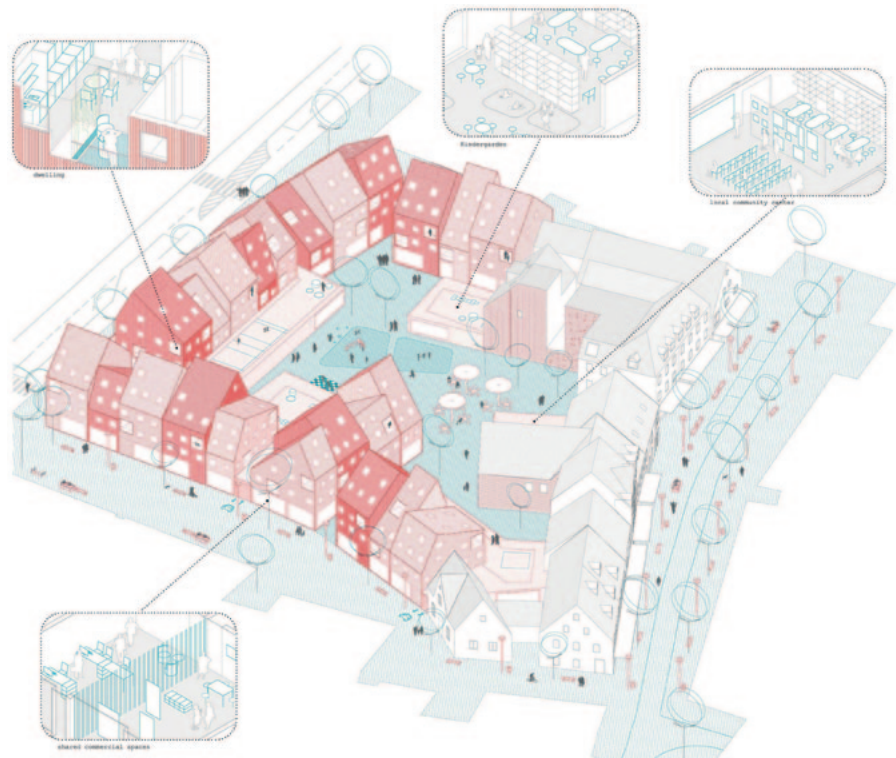
While the winner, *Urban Toolkit* (fig.9), sets out on a detailed and differentiated path to plan the redevelopment process in individual steps as a kind of procedural strategy draft and provide a corresponding "toolkit", the runner-up*, Round the Corner* (fig.10) focuses at the same time on classic urban planning measures such as the formation of clearly defined spatial borders. Contrary to trends, *Round the Corner* proposes to infiltrate the town centre with new streets, including parking spaces. It seems as if specific site criteria are non-ideologically combined with pragmatic requirements for "contemporary" living in the town centre of a structurally weak municipality. The special mention design, *Identity + Intensity* (fig.11), links spatial urban planning measures with process-oriented and programmatic measures to create a hybrid strategy.

In summary, for the results in Germany, it can be said that a clear decision for one of both poles – Welfare State vs. Self-Organization, Segregation vs. Sharing, and Object vs. Project (Process) – resulted in conclusive results on many sites. The linking of both approaches generally resulted not in multi-layered and equivocally hybrid, fully developed strategies, but rather in a simple juxtaposition of individual strategies.

Especially on the spatial level, between object and project, well-designed urban spaces often have the stronger power of persuasion in comparison to process-oriented strategies. The power of images and above all, for Europan 13, of historicizing images was great. This new approach to historical references – as shown by the works *The Magic Park of*

Feldafing, *Unbreak my Hardt*, *Das ist Gera* and *Waldstrasse* – is in part unconventional and non-ideological, occasionally experimental, but sometimes also ill-considered, questionable and dubious. The Europan results therefore correspond with a current trend of using and adapting traditional as well as historicizing design elements from the most diverse epochs and weaving them into existing structures. It seems as though people are currently also once again orienting themselves in terms of aesthetics more strongly towards the supposedly fixed values of history. The only thing that is missing in the new way of dealing with the historical is the playful approach, the pleasure in shrilly quoting the post-modern.

POINT OF VIEW OF A JURY MEMBER
JUANA SÁNCHEZ GÓMEZ (ES), architect,
co-founder of DJArquitectura in Granada, teacher,
Europan Prize E7, E8, E10, E11, member of the Europan 13 Spanish jury.

Interpretations on the Adaptable City

1 - A CORUÑA (ES)

3 - PALMA (ES)

Among the proposals received on the four Spanish sites of Europan's 13th edition, the jury underlined 3 recurring main characteristics on the topic of the Adaptable City:

1. The Adaptable City does not start from scratch. Generating strategies adapted to the existing urban structures seemed to be essential for the submitted projects. The new projects appear as an opportunity to recompose the situations' very aspects that drove them to become outdated.

2. In a context of recycling, priority is given to the reinforcement of a public space layout that guarantees functional diversity and allows the different actors involved to participate in its design. Facing the reflections on how to innovate in living in private space, the participating teams focused on the creative colonisation of public space.

3. Nature turned out to be an essential element on those collective spaces, whether public or private. The starting point of the landscaping of urban enclaves lies on productive hypotheses that either incorporate urban gardening or recover the ground as a space to vegetalise, whether in a controlled way or favouring spontaneous growth.

It is of course possible to explain the winning projects from those three aspects –which are indeed integrated in all the projects. Still, it seems to us interesting to analyse them from the prevailing aspect, as it brings connotations enriching the above-mentioned generic speech with new nuances.

1. Of recycling and adaptation to the existing urban structures

In A Coruña (fig.1) the fragility of the ría's natural ecosystem resulted in a metaphoric way in the description of the housing structures of the As Xubias district. The winning project *Nice to 'Sea' You* (fig.2)– makes a bet on the recognition of this housing complex that colonised the slope in time as a clearly identifiable district structure. The young architects consider the resilience of the population still living onsite as a value, a specific way of life of this environment that becomes an essential element of the landscape and therefore needs to be reinforced. Starting from there, the team proposes to complete the district's existing morphology with new elements that –at an adapted scale– will take up part of the slope while leaving out areas as natural private spaces. The team revises the traditional typology and updates the buildings with greenhouses for self-culture practices – as
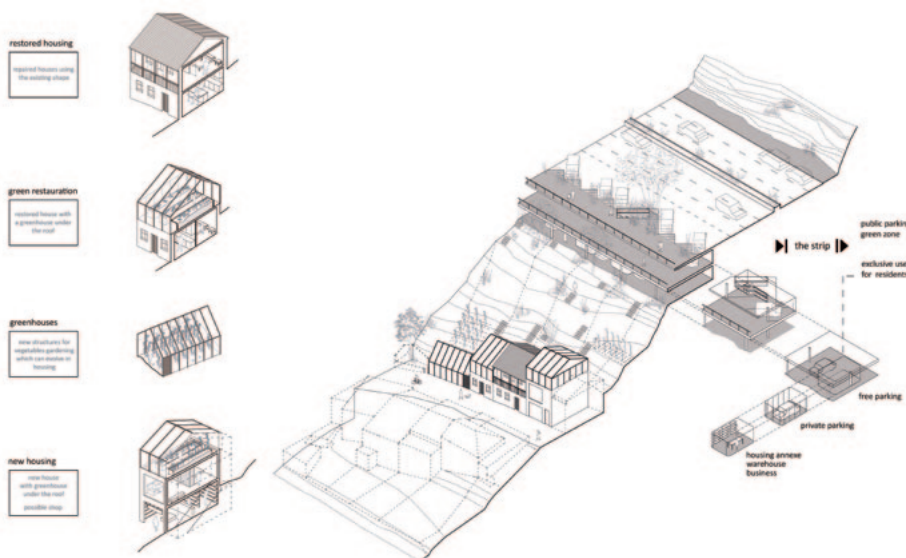
2 - NEW HOUSING AND REHABILITATION OF EXISTING HOUSING
A CORUÑA (ES), WINNER - NICE TO 'SEA' YOU > SEE CATALOGUE P.75
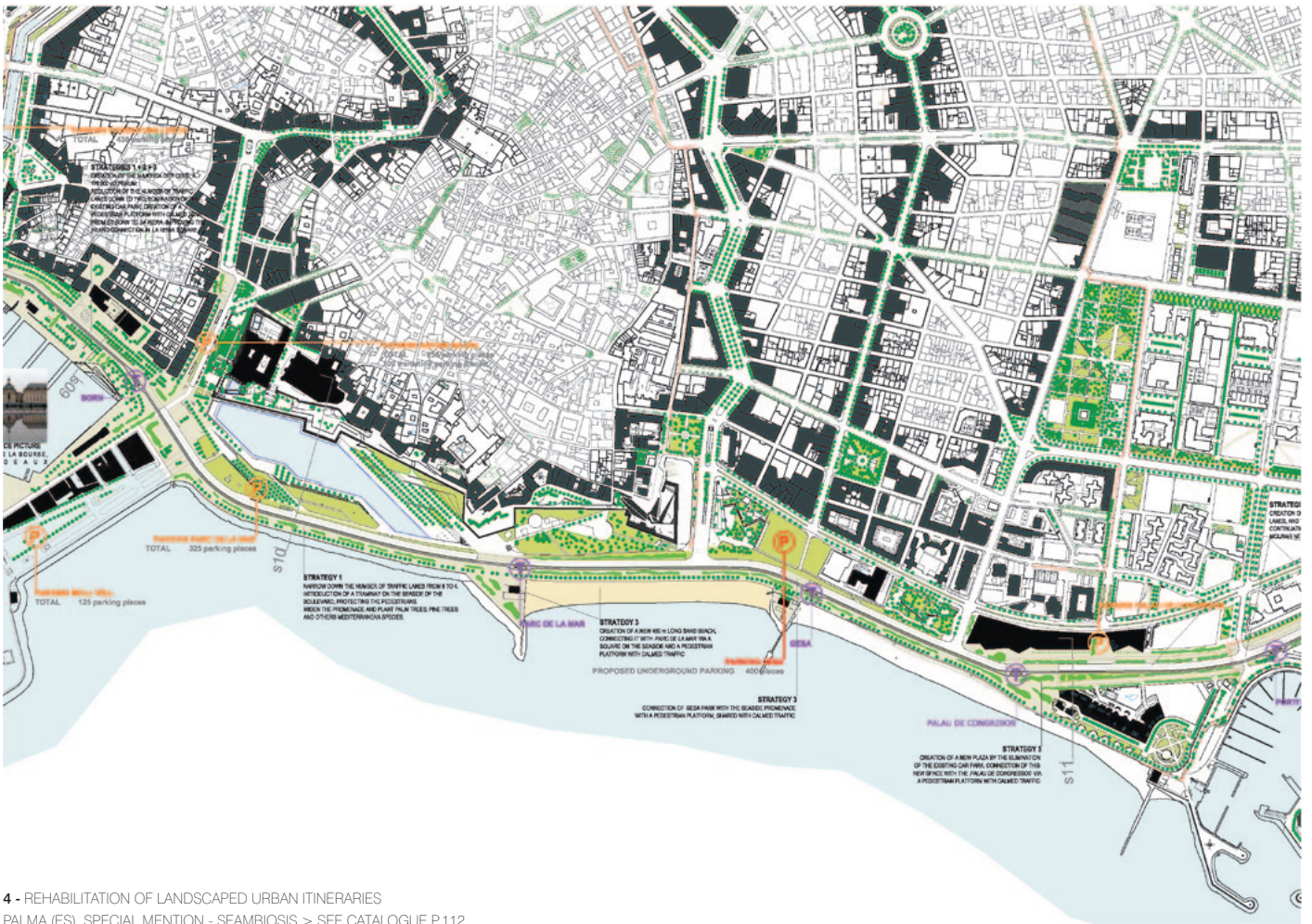
4 - REHABILITATION OF LANDSCAPED URBAN ITINERARIES
PALMA (ES), SPECIAL MENTION - SEAMBIOSIS > SEE CATALOGUE P.112

plug-ins fitting in the existing housing units in a proposal for complete rehabilitation aiming to improve housing conditions in the district through supporting food self-sufficiency.
Seambiosis (fig.4)–special mention on Palma (fig.3)– made it clear that upgrading the coastline is useless unless based on a thorough understanding of the urban tissue.

This concern can be read in the persistence to recover and valorise the public spaces along the urban tissue, from the coast to the city centre. The team not only redesigns the urban pre-existent squares and itineraries sinking into the city to keep them as pedestrian corridors; they also reinforce the existing landscape to upgrade the corridors as green paths.

2. Of the creation of a public space that guarantees functional diversity and creative colonisation

The winning project *In Motion* (fig.5) for Barcelona's Marina del Prat Vermel district (fig.6) challenges architecture –as seen many times in recent history– with the issue of hybridisation with public space. In this way the concept of "elevated street" is updated with a sequence of vertically piled-up platforms taking up functions of collective space and support for various activities. The full height of building is an urban infrastructure, which allows freeing

5 - ARCHITECTURE - PUBLIC SPACE
BARCELONA (ES), WINNER - IN MOTION > SEE CATALOGUE P.203

6 - BARCELONA (ES)
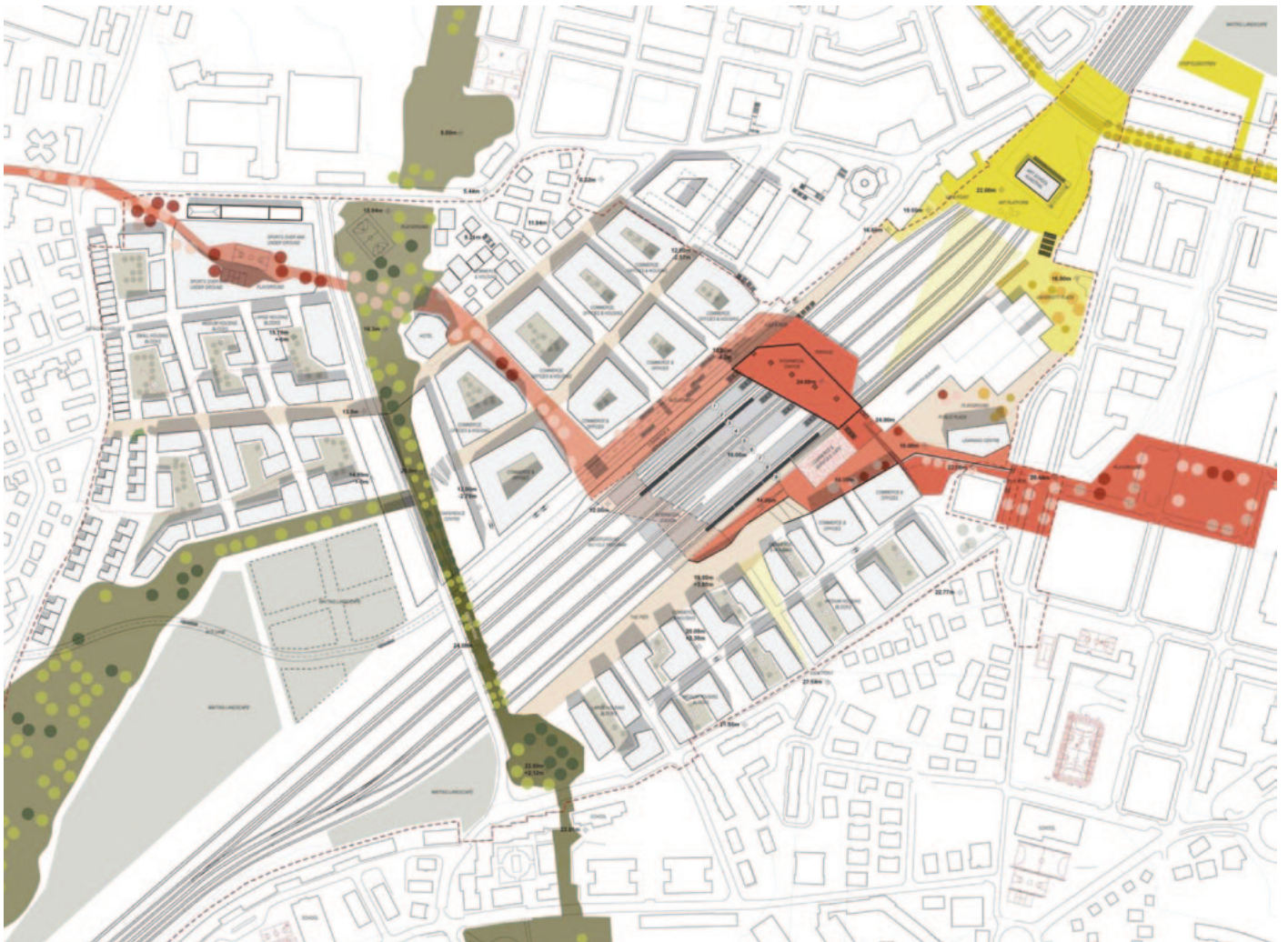
7 - ENSURING MOBILITY
IRÚN (ES), SPECIAL MENTION - OVER THE BORDER > SEE CATALOGUE P.94

the ground so that the earth can be used for its own rehabilitation as a space to vegetalise. The ground –freed from this waterproof and protecting layer– can filter water again, breathe, interfere stronger with natural cycles and favour enhanced biodiversity in the urban centre.

On another scale, the special mention project *Over the Border* (fig.7) in Irún (fig.8) focuses on folding public space around a loop of routes linking the space on different levels – an urban sequence to which two corridors are added

crossing the railway, one as a pedestrian path, the other for cultural use. The project gives priority to increasing the possibilities of connection between the reinforced urban tissue and the new expansion to come, over the concrete design of the tissue for the future city. The team focuses on defining a rich sequence of public spaces, of pedestrian and road paths that guarantee the continuity of an urban territory torn apart by the wound of the railway infrastructure.

This section work is getting more detailed in Palma's winning project, *Salvemos el Horizonte* (fig.9), in which one detail paradoxically completes a generic proposal of potential interventions and actions acting as driving forces for urbanity. Adaptable game rules when resetting the game board seen as the physical support through which the complexity of the fluxes and connections on the city coastline become evident.

3. Of integrating nature as an essential element of the contemporary city

This statement is so true that it would have been very surprising not to see –in any way or another– any revegetation process in the submitted projects, even if tackled indirectly. And so did it appear in Barcelona, with the urban ground made visible after the removal of the waterproof layer; but also in A Coruña with small greenhouses being added to guarantee a productive nature; and finally in Palma
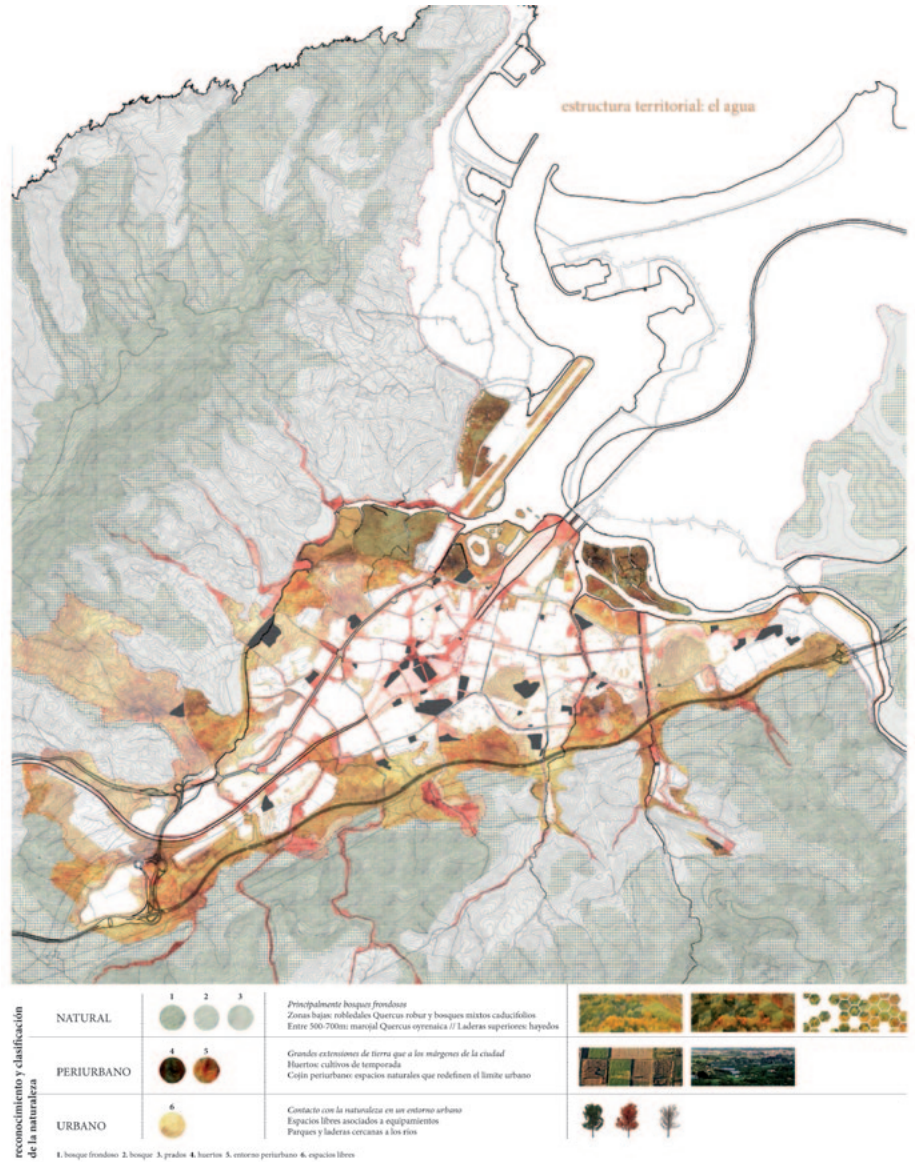

8 - IRÚN (ES)
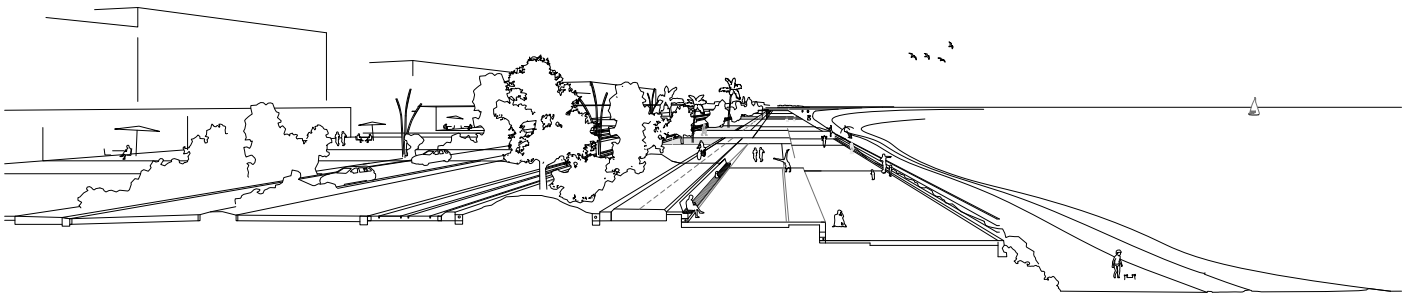
9 - A MATRIX OF USES – SECTION
PALMA (ES), WINNER - SALVEMOS EL HORIZONTE > SEE CATALOGUE P.111

and Irún with green paths accompanying the proposed urban itineraries. In this way, city landscaping to foster the emergence of an environmental infrastructure improving housing conditions in the urban environment remains a constant trend in the submitted projects. A large part of the planning proposals integrate green systems, either productive systems or systems to improve biodiversity through spontaneous growth or setting up green spaces as urban lungs.

The question is therefore: if the city grows on itself, if it is to "hyper-develop" and use every piece of land possible, isn't it be better to make sure it takes place in adequate housing conditions? And to prepare this isn't it better to foresee a more than enough green background?

Given this, a specific attention was casted upon urban agriculture. Acknowledging the advantages of urban gardening regarding self-consumption or its capacity to reinforce social bonds –confirmed by the growing number of practices developed by tactical urbanism– many projects integrated urban agriculture as a shared practice that is necessary to the contemporary urban society.

Of all submitted projects one must point out Irún's runner-up *Ura Eta Natura* (fig.10), in which nature goes beyond its environmental value to be interpreted as a necessary heritage reference. The team states that if the city of Irún wishes to preserve its identity, it cannot separate it from the surrounding natural spaces. Therefore the team does not focus so much on an architectonic typology to design the urban tissue as on the management of a sequence of public spaces able to build a unique urban landscape as an extension of the surrounding natural mountain landscape.

10 - NATURE AS HERITAGE
IRÚN (ES), RUNNER-UP - URA ETA NATURA > SEE CATALOGUE P.93

Chairing the French Europan jury was my first experience, from the inside, of this major European competition. What struck me first of all was the enthusiasm and commitment. Enthusiasm of the entrants with 316 proposals received (out of 1302 for all the European sites). Commitment by the municipalities that submitted sites – 10 in France for this session – and of their representatives, who worked very hard to express their aspirations, to analyse the projects, and then to argue their preferences before the jury. Enthusiasm and commitment as well from the experts, who gave an essential framework to the jury's work in the form of multi-criterion analyses, but were also able to step outside the framework to argue their preferences. And finally, enthusiasm from the jury, in the debates leading up to the choices, which were often difficult, even Corneillian, and also made under very heavy time pressure.

POINT OF VIEW OF A JURY MEMBER
NATHAN STARKMAN (FR), director of APUR (Atelier Parisien d'Urbanisme) from 1989 to 1989, then of the Lille Métropole Urban Planning Agency (FR). Chairman of the Europan 13 French jury.

Projects Between the Practicality of Contexts and the Ambition of Topics

1 - BONDY (FR)

2 - LA CORRÈZE (FR)

3 - GOUSSAINVILLE (FR)

4 - SAINT-BRIEUC (FR)

5 - MOULINS (FR)

Demanding requirements

Much is asked of the entrants in a competition that has evolved in recent sessions towards subjects that are more urban than architectural. The teams have to respond to a sort of "dual brief". Firstly, the brief from the municipalities that submitted project sites, which ask many classic questions about upgrading existing urban or periurban areas, and occasionally about new developments. The questions are broad but situated and precise, and the municipalities are looking for answers that are pragmatic and, as far as possible, consistent with the policies they are pursuing and capable of practical and rapid implementation. The topics chosen by Europan also formulate a brief. Europan 13 continues the current of ideas about the "adaptable city" begun in Europan 12. The candidates were asked to think about the issues of sustainable development and resilience, and to propose time-bound projects, "processes rather than objects", in other words to think about city production:

set-up, finance, actors, governance, etc. These two briefs are of course not mutually exclusive. Europan's requirements fit in with and complement those of the municipalities. However, there are nuances, differences in the orders of priority, evidenced by the disparities between the preferences expressed by municipalities and the opinions of the experts. The debate is primarily about the feasibility of the proposals and the short-term possibility of implementing them, factors which, for the municipalities, are of major importance (though in my opinion, not necessarily realistic). This plethora of requirements is perhaps a source of the limitations of imagination and innovation that were regretted a number of times during examination of the projects
In addition, some sites raise difficult questions about programme definition or operational organisation. One striking example of this was the Bondy site (fig.1), an embodiment of all the still operative but ageing shopping zones for which there are currently very few transformation projects and even fewer experiments in progress. Another example, the

La Corrèze site (fig.2), involving three different villages (a first for Europan) around the crucial question of the future of rural villages. There is no doubt that architects and urbanists can no longer ignore questions of this kind, highly salient as they are today. However, answering them requires skills that not all the submitting teams were able to assemble. It therefore happens that these questions are tackled as a kind of imposed formality, and met with banal or somewhat arbitrary responses, sometimes reflecting current fashion. So we saw rather too many co-working spaces and urban farms, proposed for sites that were not really suited to them, and participatory or crowdfunding approaches that were generous in spirit, but unconvincing.

High-quality projects

Nevertheless, many responses were successful in overcoming these difficulties and proposed projects of great quality, more than the thirty projects – winning, runner-up and special mention – chosen by the jury.
The collected responses show great potential openness and a real readiness to tackle pertinent issues. Even apparently modest sites, which asked tough questions, like La Corrèze or Goussainville Old Village (fig.3), an isolated and noisy location at the end of the Roissy airport runways, attracted a large number of responses. The interest in very large sites and wider

landscape questions was particularly marked. The proposals often stepped outside the specified parameters, especially when these were limited, in order to pursue stronger links with the neighbouring territories and enhance the force of the projects. Another strength lay in the responses to the demand for adaptability. Numerous teams proposed to combine scales, to intervene locally at a territorial scale, and to vary the natures of their interventions, in flexible and progressive implementation strategies that took the form of or resemble roadmaps.

Beyond these characteristics, the projects chosen by the jury stand out for a set of specific qualities: first, the appositeness of the responses to the challenges of the sites (precision of the analyses, appropriateness and specificity of proposals…), the aesthetic or pedagogic quality of the submissions and, more rarely, the originality of the choices.

Saint-Brieuc and Moulins

Out of the 30 projects chosen, I will now go on to discuss a few that I found particularly interesting, restricting myself to a few salient aspects of their content.

First, two sites that attracted very high level-projects, which had features in common: Saint-Brieuc (fig.4) and Moulins (fig.5). Sites that are very large and open to their environment, marked by the strong presence of natural features (sea and hills at Saint-Brieuc, the River Allier and its banks at Moulins), very close to old centres and located within towns that are mid-sized (46,000 and 58,000) and slightly "sleepy". The central challenge is to restore value and the chosen projects fall into the category of roadmaps. The proposals, which reflect the scale and power of the site, focused primarily on the public spaces, which are multiple and widely distributed, divisible and modulable over time. Landscape, sustainable development and long timeframes are centre stage; the processes are in the background, embedded in the implementation of the proposal.
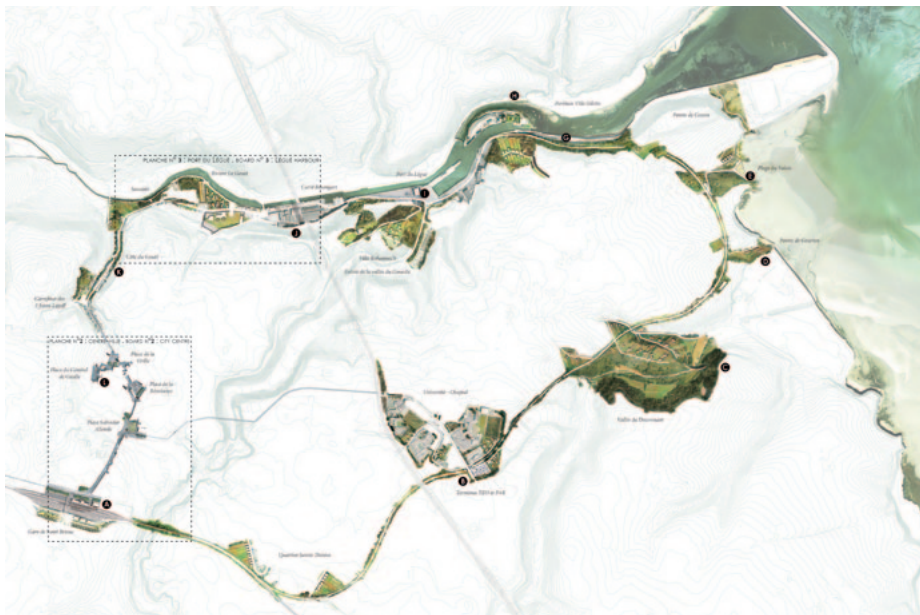
In Saint-Brieuc, the Municipality is looking for a strategy of value enhancement aimed at local people and tourists. The areas concerned are the town centre public spaces, the former Légué docks and the links between town and port, embedded in a steep topography "like that of a mountain village". The task is therefore to "work on the pathways, the visual openings, the architectural and urban ambiences".[1]

One of the two winning projects, *Seaside Boulevard* (fig.6), focuses its interventions on two routes between station and sea, one running through the town centre fabric, refurbishing the public spaces, the other following the old railway line, which is converted to the Boulevard de la mer. These routes link together all the proposed interventions, all of which are based around a single toolbox that combines landscape production (ground, voids, emergences…), building design (evolving, modular), travel modes, the introduction of a network of local amenities… This systematisation can sometimes seem a little excessive, but it has the effect of linking spatial elements and social life in interventions that are context-sensitive and closely studied.

The second winning project, *Landscape Focus* (fig.7), resolutely announces itself as a landscape project – anti-segregative and economical – that approaches the landscape in all its depth, cultural, social and historical, to make it a living source of territorial change. It is also an ecological project, which talks about reusing demolition materials and repairing pollution. A set of potential long-term proposals responds to the municipality's aspirations for its central areas, for the enhancement of the valleys… However, the project stands

8 - MOULINS (FR), WINNER – THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION > SEE CATALOGUE P.103

out above all for one original and powerful choice: the conversion of dilapidated sites near the sea (Légué and Grève des courses brownfield areas, purification plant) to turn them into exceptional sites, the location of urban industrial facilities (methanisation and lagooning centre, purification complex) and educational amenities focusing on the environment in upgraded landscapes.

In Moulins, the forthcoming arrival of a new bridge is the pretext for new ideas, but the questions raised go well beyond: they affect all aspects of the reconciliation between the town and its river – the treatment of the riverbanks, the relations with the existing town, etc., but also the urbanisation of flood zones and the balance between enhancing and controlling urban expansion, in a territory without growth. The winning project, *The Theory of Evolution* (fig.8), stands out for its vivid and playful expression, which plays on the natural sciences, drawing parallels between theories of Lamarck and Darwin and linking them to the different ways in which the city evolves. The team relies on the "already there" as a foundation for initiatives that are economical in investment and in energy. The proposals drive the "natural" evolution of nine types of space (from the River Allier to the orchards on the left bank). The spatial approach is highly refined. The graphic representation, which combines wide views and minimalist sketches, is controlled and informative.

The project that received a special mention, *Les Alliés de Moulins* (fig.9), is methodical. It begins with a large-scale reformulation of urban planning policy. It then goes on to define a two-level implementation strategy. The *"Alliés"* are points of limited intervention (a staircase linking two levels of public space, children's play areas, temporary use of space…) capable of triggering or promoting positive change. They are embedded in five "front lines", which are axes of long-term work: gradual densification and reinforcement of shops, development of the Allier park, rebalancing of the riverbanks, rearrangement of the public spaces, etc. More ambitious local developments are incorporated into a roadmap (square, gardens, environmental recycling and resource centre, eco-neighbourhood on the left bank…).

9 - MOULINS (FR), SPECIAL MENTION - LES ALLIÉS DE MOULINS > SEE CATALOGUE P.105
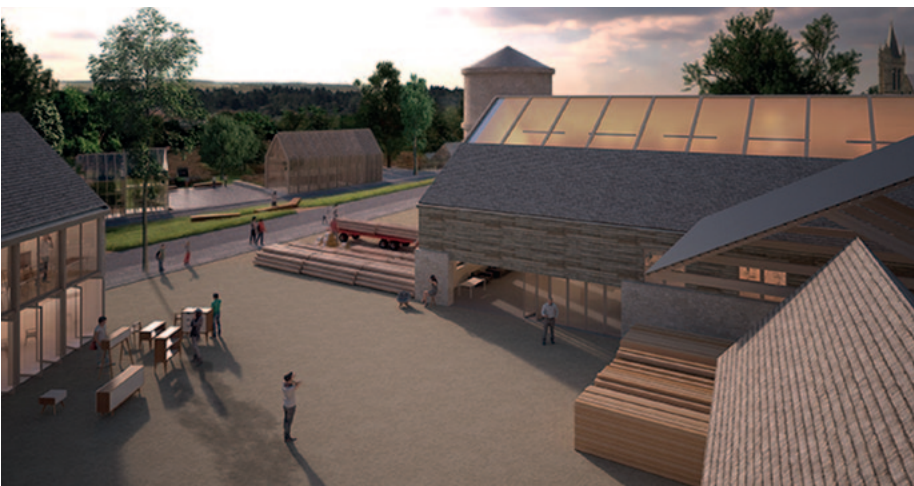
10 - GOUSSAINVILLE (FR), RUNNER-UP - DES RACINES ET DES AILES > SEE CATALOGUE P.220
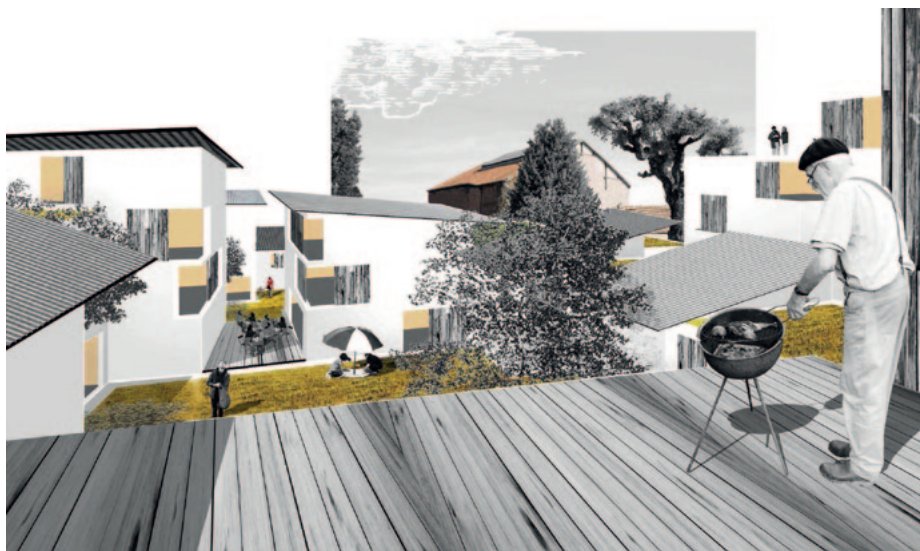
11 - LA CORRÈZE (FR), SPECIAL MENTION - NEW NOMADS
> SEE CATALOGUE P. 231

12 - MONTREUIL (FR), SPECIAL MENTION - OULIPO > SEE CATALOGUE P.158

A few striking programmes

A few projects are in my view of particular interest for the originality and power of the programmes proposed and the questions they raise. Almost all these projects are also "sidesteps", which meet the municipalities' requirements for improvement, but to some degree stand apart from the solutions the municipalities were considering (solutions present in other projects chosen on the same sites). Not all these proposals are dealt with in equal depth, or with equal credibility, but they can open up promising debates.

In Saint-Brieuc, the winning project *Landscape Focus,* already mentioned, clearly forms part of this category of projects through its original and exemplary interpretation, which combines ecology, pedagogy and landscape quality, in the regeneration of the brownfield sites.

Goussainville was probably the session's most difficult site. An old village that survives with difficulty amidst a concentration of pollution (noise from Roissy Airport, soil, water), caught between the impossibility of building new houses and prohibitions or limitations on the transformation of the historically protected existing fabric. The runner-up project, *Des racines et des ailes* (fig.10), proposes to focus development on tree plantations and the wood industry, as a tool of long-term ecological recovery and landscape enhancement. Although it needs further development, it puts forward the idea of an ambitious experiment in ecological enhancement, essential in this context.

In order to revitalise declining rural villages, the project that received a special mention in Corrèze, *New Nomads* (fig.11), seeks to attract new "rurban" populations for stays of varying length, possibly with the ultimate aim of turning them into new inhabitants. The objective is to make life easier for these "new nomads" and to facilitate their personal aspirations by offering them places to live, equipped with public amenities, and by integrating them into local social and economic life.

The team whose project, *OuLiPo* (fig.12), received a special mention project in Montreuil, proposes to experiment with new relations between land ownership and usage rights, and to illustrate them through a variety of practical projects. The idea is not necessarily original today, but it is presented in a focused, well argued and relevant way. Better still, Montreuil municipality and its land experts have declared their interest. How could such openness to innovation not lead somewhere?

The winning project in Vernon, *Insécable distance* (fig.13), is a direct response to the municipality's brief for the enhancement of the Seine-side site. It focuses on a powerful, simple and playful proposal: the construction of a series of jetty-viewpoints extending from the streets running down from the town centre to the river, like a series of waterside pavilions that offer new leisure, cultural and social functions, bringing new attractiveness to the town. An inventive opening up to the possibility of a succession of hopefully ambitious creations.

These examples give a little idea of the richness of the chosen projects and of their potential to conceive and then to implement the "adaptable city".

[1] QUOTE FROM THE SAINT-BRIEUC SITE DOSSIER
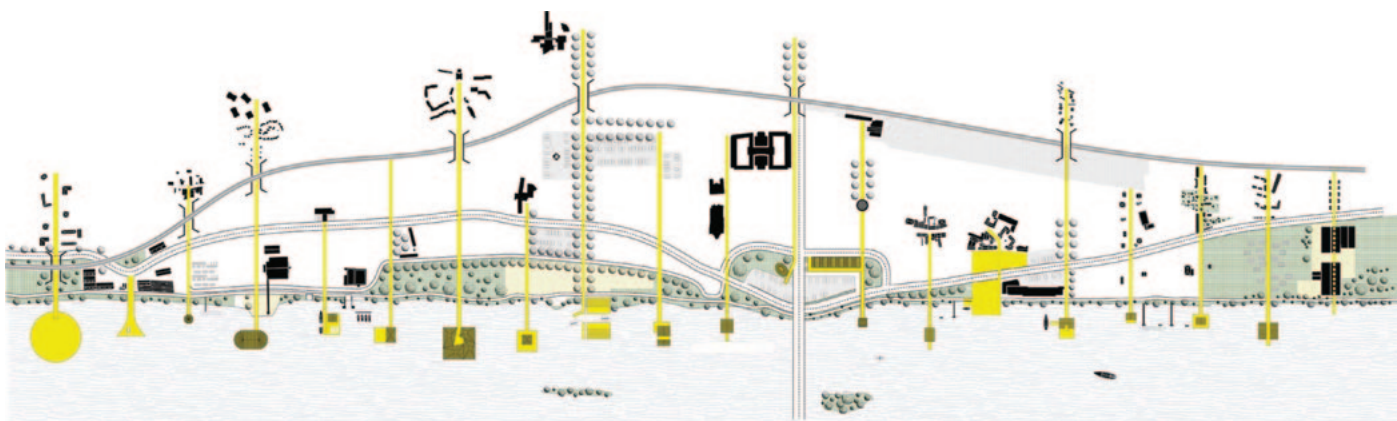
13 - VERNON (FR), WINNER – INSÉCABLE DISTANCE > SEE CATALOGUE P.183

Adaptable Norway?
— an Oil Stained Landscape

Norwegian economic and socio-political context

January 2016 the price of oil was 27 dollar a barrel and 35,000 jobs in the region of Stavanger, Norway's oil capital have been lost in one and a half year. Every week more working places are being lost, and the bottom is not near. In a region with 300,000 inhabitants the crisis is evident. The beginning of the post-oil era was forecasted, but still it hit hard and abrupt. The Norwegian welfare state has for a long time been fuelled by the oil economy, but with the shortcoming of demand for oil, and the promising results from the Paris Climate Change Conference, Norway has to

change course - a great but painful shift of mindset. Simultaneously Europe is facing a large immigrant crisis. The international Organization of Migration concluded that the number of immigrants arrived in Europe during 2015 had reached 1 million people. More than 30,000 immigrants seeking asylum came to Norway, and in 2016 the estimates of number of arriving immigrants is the double – to Norway only. A successful integration of these new inhabitants can be severely compromised with a tense national economy and high unemployment rates coinciding with the forthcoming fourth industrial revolution with global downsizing and automatization. At the same time other models of economic and social organizations are appearing; the sharing

economy or collaborative consumptions, crowdfunding and entrepreneurship became buzz words in 2015 and the Europan themes focusing on "self-organization, sharing and process" hit the contemporary agenda in Norway with surprising accuracy. But how did this economic and socio-political context affect the competition results? The shift of focus in Norway coincided with the ongoing European 13, and became more than relevant in the Forus site in Stavanger (fig.1).

1 - STAVANGER (NO), SPECIAL MENTION - INDIGO > SEE CATALOGUE P.177
THE FORUS AREA IS HOME TO BUSINESSES OF THE NORWEGIAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY AND LIES IN THE REGION OF STAVANGER.

2 - STAVANGER (NO), SPECIAL MENTION - INDIGO > SEE CATALOGUE P.177
THE AUTHORS OF "INDIGO" ILLUSTRATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RE-NATURALIZE LARGER LANDSCAPES SUCH AS THE DRAINED LAKE UPON PARTS ON WHICH FORUS WAS INITIALLY BUILT.

Stavanger, Post-Forus

The core of the Norwegian petroleum industry lies in a vast former industrial site called "Forus". In the Europan Norway program the task at stake was proclaimed as the following: *"Fuelled by the postmillennial expansion of petroleum industry investments, the future prospects for Forus are of immense growth and urban densification. With the Europan competition Stavanger wants ideas for how to use this strategic site to pilot a new prototype of urban development at Forus. A key question of adaptability is how to future-proof the upcoming, rapid developments. How can Forus develop a strategy for both growth and change?"*
But long before the jury sessions started it was already evident that rapid growth was questioned due the state of the economy and was not the main focus for the site representative's anymore. The site is flooded with large empty office buildings with no tenants, and the task at hand changed from a more conventional "urban retrofitting" to a more visionary "what's next?" project. Projects illustrated possible futures based not only on growth, but also decline, shrinking, erasure and stagnation with "let's do nothing" approaches.

Many competitors were smart in the sense that they understood that new businesses replacing the oil industry not necessarily need the same amount or type of built environment (large national centres & headquarters and so on) as we see on Forus today. So when the authors of the special mention project *Indigo* (fig.2) or runner-up project *Rise of Nature* (fig.3) show signs of a more "light urbanism", it is not based on a disbelief in the future of Norwegian economy or the future business enterprises in Stavanger, but in the hope for a smarter, digital, shared, smaller, robotic and airily one. *In this sense the Europan projects became an eye opener on how to exploit the new economic era to re-establish larger territorial landscape qualities – areas probably no longer only needed for just "big businesses".* This approach to economy and land use was an important discovery.

3 - STAVANGER (NO), RUNNER-UP - RISE OF NATURE > SEE CATALOGUE P.176
THE VAST FIELD OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT IS TO BE CLUSTERED IN ENCLAVES, CONCENTRATED SETTLEMENTS IN PARKS BASED ON CLEAR EXISTING IDENTITIES.
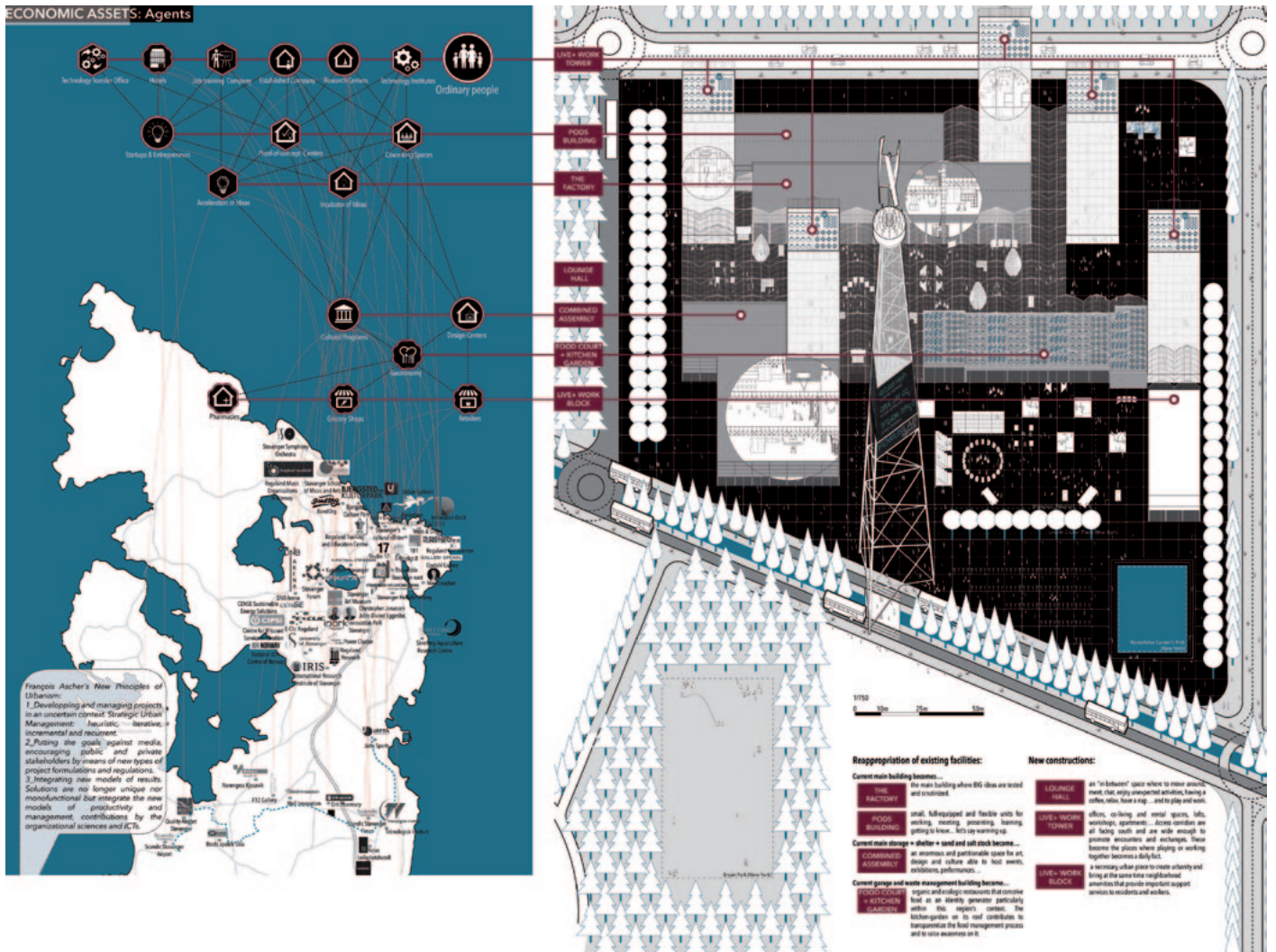
4 - STAVANGER (NO), WINNER - FORUS LABING > SEE CATALOGUE P.175
THE PROCESS IS REFERRED TO AS A "MIDDLE-OUT" EXPERIMENTAL PROCESS WHERE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EXECUTIVE DECISIONS INTERMINGLE.

New planning processes

To enable a "lighter urbanism" traditional planning processes also need to adapt and were questioned in many proposals. In the competition context the process-oriented "democratic project" gives everyone a great vibe (either out of true belief or correctness), but in most entries the diagrams of participatory road maps only show us what the architects believe is necessary to embrace in such a process, but cannot simulate reality (for obvious reasons due to the type of task). For the jury it is like evaluating an abstract and a list of content, whilst the paper remains unwritten. But still it is of great value and often preferred in comparison with the alternative; a finished design. On the Stavanger site it was clear that strategies that could engage new and existing users of Forus in the planning process were necessary to enable a greater change. First of all it is them that have to gain ownership over "the new reality". So, complementary to the more visionary images in *Indigo* project that

could generate engagement from a large, yet unknown crowd, the winning project *Forus LABing* (fig.4) shows an operative and more transparent path, where many stakeholders can immediately find their nametag. This strategy fronted a necessary collaboration between governing parties, business stakeholders and self-organizing entities. This statement was labelled with neither a top-down nor a bottom-up process from the authors and that was perfectly timed for the economic and socio-political situation in the Stavanger region. The project illustrates a design management approach which is neither scale- nor site-specific. *In other words, the project illustrated on the Europan site exemplifies a process, showing everybody that for the time being, the site itself is not the main topic of discussion.* The urban laboratory is not a building, but a process that can foster economic, social and urban innovation, and the actual site is the whole Forus area.

Reuse of existing structures

Understanding the whole area as the site also gave new meaning to reappropriation and reuse of existing structures, both on an infrastructural and a real estate level. While jurying the Europan entries, we witnessed the first new inhabitants in Forus; 1,000 asylum seekers in an empty office complex close to the Europan site (fig.5). Few competitors were anticipating this event, even though many were suggesting similar transformations of office buildings into housing and temporary uses. But it was much more real than what many had expected. Many proposals were also concerned with the potential reuse of oilrigs that were to be dismantled. This was a strong message to the city of Stavanger and the ultimate symbol of the end of an era. The winning proposal managed to illustrate this transition in non-nostalgic and opportunistic projects converting oilrigs into local facilities for new green energy production, somehow enhancing their former identity while at the

same time replacing their function (fig.6). *Bringing the installations from the oil industry home to Forus envisioned a large-scale "shared energy" concept, a democratization of accessibility to energy, while simultaneously symbolizing a shared history and identity.*

Self-Organization – Sharing – Project (Process)

A more process-oriented urbanism is likely to increase together with the ongoing rise of the social economy. New forms of collaboration where people share services and knowledge are cost effective and environmentally sustainable; although long overdue, they are becoming popular among the masses. In addition to redefining the role of the architect as "promoter, curator, facilitator or platform", these forms focus on decentralizing power and increasing the speed of processes through self-organization. As a result crowdfunding and "pitching" becomes everyday entrepreneurial activities that architects have to get involved in. The timeframe of the Europan competition on the other hand, gives the competitors the possibility for "slow-cooking" projects,

which is probably honest and healthy, but compared to the classical "elevator-pitch" the Europan process becomes a transatlantic crossing where there is a certain probability that by arrival your proposal has already been suggested by others. In the case of the Stavanger site many projects fell short in their content because they were half year old and by the time of jury decisions already out-dated. How can we make the Europan competition relevant in an increasingly collaborative and fast-changing society? If the future is a kind of "light urbanism" continuously adapting to new realities the architect cannot be the extra weight slowing down the process.

In Europan Norway 13 we saw *tendencies of new and interesting content, but often trapped in more conventional processes.* It is of great necessity that young architects learn to make business in a field were "traditionally participatory processes" is often seen as volunteer work. In the rising awareness that the project, and not the object, is the work and the welfare state is not going to pay for it, the architect has to learn from e.g. how designers are now taking control of their shares and bringing the products directly to the users without unnecessary intermediaries (clients with profit as a goal). In this context it is fair

to ask how we could future-proof a Europan organization without the municipalities and if Europan could become a "light" platform – the "Kickstarter" of architecture and urbanism processes (cf. *www.kickstarter.com)* – or something even braver?
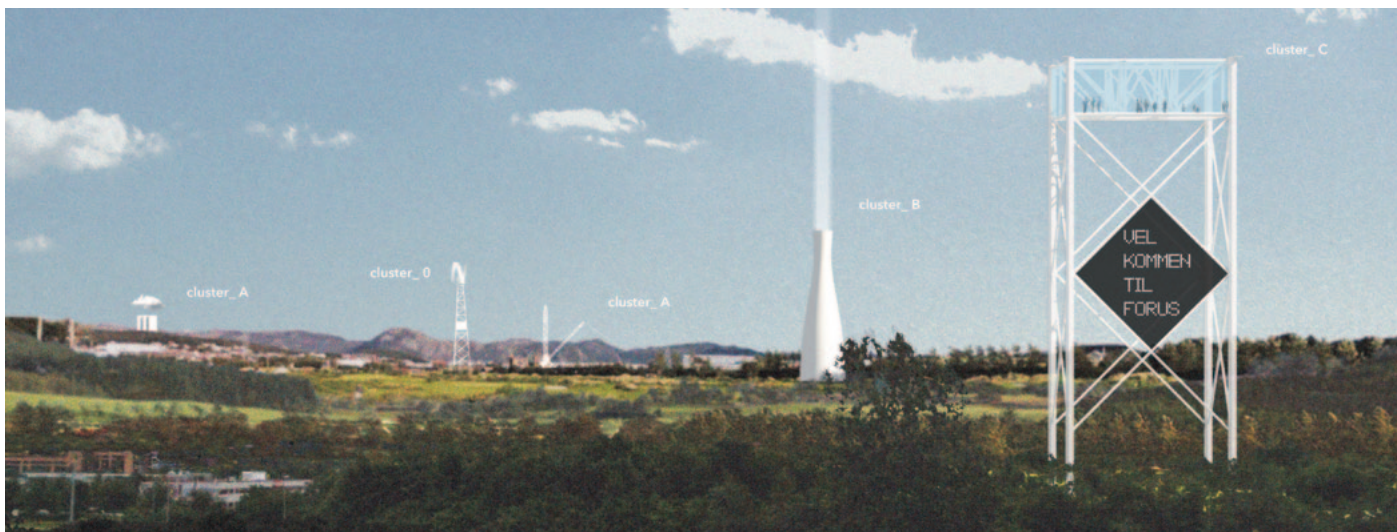
EUROPAN ÖSTERREICH/KOSOVO RESULTS
Europan Kosovo with only one site was associated with Europan Österreich. So the Österreich Jury members also had to analyse and judge the projects submitted in Kosovo, on the site in Gjakova, in addition to the projects submitted on the Austrian sites.
A representative of Europan Kosovo joined the Austrian jury to evaluate the projects submitted on Gjakova, Kosovar site.

POINT OF VIEW OF A JURY MEMBER
IRENE DJAO-RAKITINE (FR), landscape architect, director at DJAO-RAKITINE in London (GB), research assistant at the ETH Zürich (CH), visiting critic to the London Mayor's Project Review Panel. Member of the Austrian Europan 13 jury.

Adaptability around a Core Structure

Europan is an opportunity for architects and landscape architects to push the boundaries of their respective domains in a context that should be both experimental and professional, considering the fact that most local actors and stakeholders involved on each site are willing to implement an innovative yet feasible project. Which means that radical experimentation might not be possible in a paradoxical period of economic austerity where maximum economic profitability and pragmatism are common drivers.

It seems that truly radical statements, which by definition would not compromise or balance out all aspects of the project, can indeed provoke interesting debates. But in a context where most of the stakeholders actually want to implement the projects while limiting the associated risks, radicality does not seem to be appropriate.
Nonetheless, stakeholders, private and/or public, are generally willing to support projects that would stand out by their strength and innovativeness and become a catalyst that would boost their social and economic local activity. And this is where the Europan exercise becomes an exciting challenge.

Innovation, adaptability, identity

When thinking about innovation, we tend to picture high technology and digital world. It actually appears that most of what we have considered as being the strongest projects were not so innovative in this sense. What was considered as innovative was rather the obviousness and simplicity of the means put in place to create adaptable yet strong structures.

An adaptable city is not just about concrete infrastructures that are big or generic enough to accept variable numbers or functions. In a world where climate becomes more sudden and extreme and people move more and faster, what we need is reactivity. Which is why we have to think about a new concept of urban form. Not to say that it would supersede our historic city structures. We need them and we need to accept that some elements of the city including natural infrastructures (like rivers, parks, lakes and woods) should be designed, built and managed to last and develop, while other elements should be additionally built to offer immediate and efficient solutions able to be transformed or recycled to adapt the changing needs of the city. But one needs to define the core structure of the city first in order to allow future flexibility and change.

What would it then mean for a city with a long history and deeply anchored traditions? Does adaptability mean change and potentially disfiguration and identity loss? Not if it creates a strong enough structural network of social spaces, lines and points where people move and stop, see and meet. And this is what the following two project teams seem to have understood and implemented in their respective proposals.
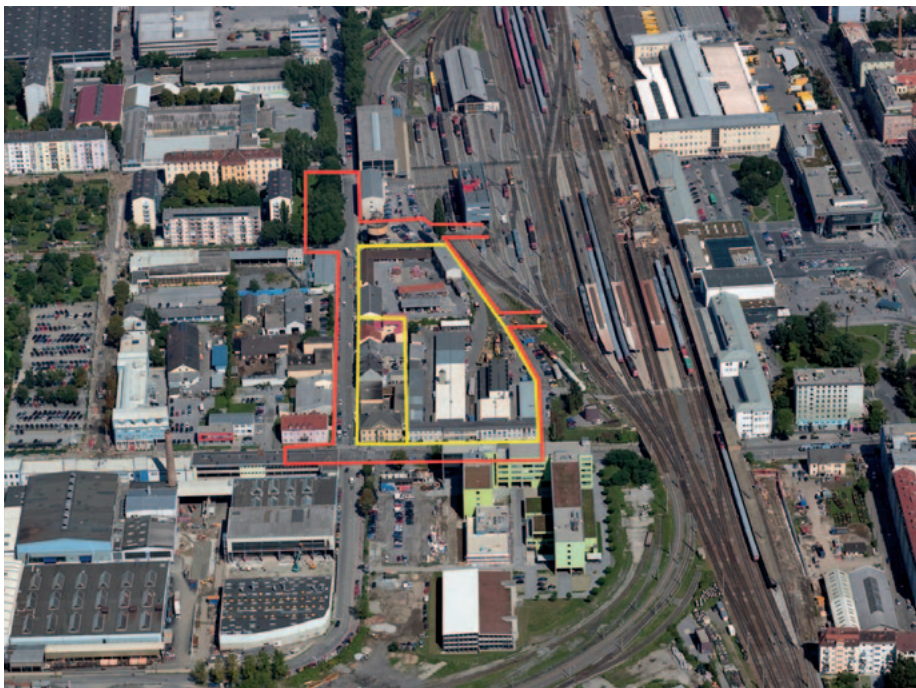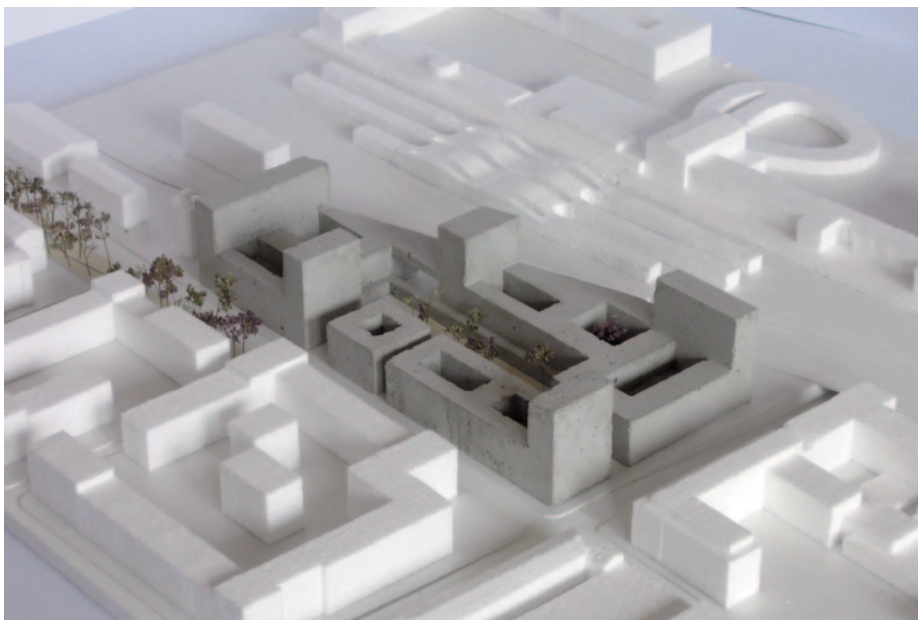

1 - GRAZ (AT)

2 - GJAKOVA (KO)

Walzer (Graz) & SEAMbiosis (Gjakova): 2 structural cores, a point (a rectangular square or forum) and a line (a linear park)

Walzer and *SEAMbiosis* illustrate two very different geographical situations and socio-economic contexts.

One is set in Graz, Austria (fig.1), and lies at the edge of a very consistent and organized city centre but within a former industrial district nowadays under urban development pressure. The other one, in Gjakova, Kosovo (fig.2), is located in a historical city centre with great potential, but today dismantled and rather unorganized.

In Graz, the site belongs to the Austrian railway company and to a building material company, and was suggested by the City of Graz and ÖBB with a desire to plan a mixed-use development valued by the proximity of the main transport hub. It is a site under land pressure and at the opposite of the "loose" Gjakova site, which is in need of intensity. The Graz winning project, *Walzer* (fig.3, 4, 5), secures a strong and permanent open space at its heart to organize and manage the density around it. The design team of *Walzer* –composed of Mihai Buse, Marton Tövissi and Tamás Fischer– indeed suggests to frame and protect a rectangular central space, whose void still needs to be designed

but with the potential to become the core of the project – a (Roman) forum, a civic space where diverse people from the development or from further neighbourhoods can meet, gather and exchange.

The "forum" is defined by a colonnade, which distributes the different adjacent buildings of the development as well as openings and passageways to the surrounding neighbourhoods. It also allows people to walk outdoor while being sheltered.

This simple, yet strong core gives the development the possibility to evolve and adapt, grow or shrink, without losing its identity, status and role in relation to the city and neighbourhood it belongs to. The forum is

FLEX-PLAZA

KITE HILL

ART SCENE

THE ESCAPE

MELTING POT

PLAYZONE

COMMUNION

a distribution point as well as a meeting point. Mineral or planted, or both, it is a symbol of socialisation and exchange. And this is what a new district needs to start its life.

In Gjakova, the site is in a central position and has the Krena River at its heart. The river – although a major landscape element– does not currently seem to belong to the city, which turns its back to it –the banks are steep and the water is simply not physically accessible. By designing its banks and connections to the city, winning project *SEAMbiosis* (fig.6, 7, 8), by Erblin Bucaliu, Rrita Pula and Dea Luma, not only creates a linear urban park glamorizing the surrounding districts, but also creates the potential for the river to become a structural spine for the urban evolution and a major catalyst for the citizens. It is a sensitive yet powerful proposal which encompasses both the wider scale of the territory and the immediate scale of the river and surrounding districts.

As an ecological corridor, it has the potential to connect the city centre to major surrounding landscapes (Cabrati Hill, Shkugeza Park…), making sure that the city is part of a living nature network and is not isolated from its original nature and setting.

As a major public space for the city, the river park is both an active and passive landscape. Its planting and promenades follow the natural meandering flow of the water. But it also offers civic spaces and includes private and public activities. It has the potential to create a stronger natural environment, including a better-managed palette of native species as well as spaces such as urban squares to open the river to the city and create fluid physical and visual relationships between the city and its river.

This is an infrastructure that could become the core structure for Gjakova's urban development and allow adaptability to happen. The surrounding districts will benefit from the park and, as the different sections of the park are characterized by its edges, the park will hopefully benefit from its surrounding

7 - GJAKOVA (KO), WINNER - SEAMBIOSIS > SEE CATALOGUE P.83

developments. Sometimes built very close to the water, sometimes much further, the urban fabric creates moments of compression and release, which will define the different atmospheres of the river park.

The way the project takes advantage of the various existing conditions is appropriate. It is not a big gesture to create a symbol. It is a series of connected and coherent interventions, responding to the river's various edge conditions.

Both projects are the results of a fine analysis and understanding of the sites specificities. But above all, one can feel that for both of them, intuition, natural desire and common sense have been strong drivers in creating powerful and specific identities.

In Graz, there was the intuition that –in a new district where building density might become overwhelming– one has to create and almost sanctify one common, attractive and well-defined open public ground to secure the quality of social life through the future changes and adaptations of the neighbourhood.

In Gjakova, it was obvious that one has to be able to walk along the river for pure pleasure as well as for commodity of movement through the city. Intuition that the river, its water and its vegetation, once revealed and restored as a precious asset, would become a place where people would want to gather and meet.

And this is probably where innovation lies. In this simplicity.

8 - GJAKOVA (KO), WINNER - SEAMBIOSIS > SEE CATALOGUE P.83

EUROPAN PORTUGAL RESULTS

The program for Europan 13 in Portugal (Azenha do Mar/Odemira, Barreiro and Santo Tirso), while putting on the agenda a new issue of multidimensional urban space adaptations, brought up the case that urban social crisis in Europe may also reveal new specific city challenges: how to support ideas with an "economy" of resources, mobilizing the value generated for the populations themselves as a part included in problem solving? How does this translate in the Europan competition the need for new approaches in thematic formulation and in solutions with new creative procedures?

POINT OF VIEW OF TWO JURY MEMBERS

JOÃO CABRAL (PT), architect, professor in the Faculty of Architecture of Lisbõa University, study on Urban Policy in Portugal. Member of the Europan 13 Portuguese jury.
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AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SITE OF SANTO TIRSO
CONCEIÇÃO MELO (PT), chief architect for planning and technical management in Santo Tirso Municipality.

Crisis and Opportunities

1 - BARREIRO (PT), WINNER - BETWEEN THE LINES > SEE CATALOGUE P.27

Barreiro, by João Cabral

Between the Lines, winner in Barreiro (fig.1), follows the objectives stated in the guidelines, applying a dynamic approach for the development of multiple and diversified uses, based on the structure of paths, tracks and promenades. These will create site legibility while guaranteeing the necessary connections and links for the functional and spatial integration with both the urban centre and the rivers' estuary. In spatial terms, that is achieved through two "lines" of built structures and design projects with differentiated functions and uses. The West "line" is a place of leisure activities and network connections ensuring the site and project feasibility. The East "line" creates a limit and an edge with structural functions (bridge transport and distribution) and other soft uses taking advantage of the natural conditions and the potential of the estuary.

The space "between the lines" promotes the concept of the city adapted to the test and the laboratory experiment for design and innovation in self-organization, sharing and landscaping, which, overtime, might re-shape the character and identity of the city of Barreiro. In the runner-up project, *Insert Coina* (fig.2), the terms of reference and the objectives stated in the guidelines are translated into a series of built objects and uses that will overtime give shape to a diversified and cosmopolitan

2 - BARREIRO (PT), RUNNER-UP - INSERT COINA > SEE CATALOGUE P.28

3 - AZENHA DO MAR (PT), WINNER - LIMENOCHORA > SEE CATALOGUE P.199

part of the new city. The construction of a land use project through the programmed addition of functions, objects and facilities can be considered a conventional approach. Yet, that does not prevent the pursuit of adaptability and innovation for site and city creation. On the contrary, what this project shows is that the rational design and urban structure and the right and intelligent combination of uses, functions and built objects, can be an efficient planning tool with the capacity for being legible and therefore accessible to community participation and adaptable to changing political and economic conditions.

Azenha do Mar/ Odemira, by Leonor Cheis

Limenochora and *Second Lines*, winner and runner-up in Azenha do Mar/Odemira, both respond to the 3 topics suggested for the Europan 13 competition theme – The Adaptable City: Welfare State vs. Self-Organization; Segregation vs. Sharing; and Object vs. Process.

Limenochora (fig.3) highlights the strategic link between the earth and the sea, noting the importance of integrating the population on the 'Rota Vicentina' pedestrian route; from the new panoramic points to Azenha do Mar regaining an identity as part of the route, an observation point and simultaneously a place that is worth being noted. The proposal takes the existing fabric, completes the pattern and creates several open spaces of shared neighbourhood, which complement the network of public spaces. This sharing of the open outer space promotes urban environments, the transformation of which can be activated with reduced resources and timely and assertive interventions. The architecture is based on the reinterpretation of traditional architecture models, adaptable to new ways of living – homes adjusted to various forms of space, delivered through modular systems, adaptable configuration and flexible in use. It is designed "to reconcile individual privacy needs with the community's collective needs." The recognition of the scale of the space of this town and the delicacy of the intervention contrasts with the affirmative desire to transform the port and the activation of new functions. Throughout the process, community members are to be the key players in the renewal of the existing socio-economic fabric.

4 - AZENHA DO MAR (PT), RUNNER-UP - SECOND LINES > SEE CATALOGUE P.200

The *Second Lines* (fig.4) strategy sets out a process involving the community and the people as an alternative to a conventional sense of design. It thereby enhances the concept of community centred on its inhabitants and the concept of landscape as a result of productive and cultural activities of the community over the territory. The proposal assumes that traditional practices and land use must be enriched with new procedures with the active participation of the people who give meaning to the idea of living in community. Creating a new niche of hospitality, contemporary and cultural tourism linked to well-being, knowledge, discovery, sharing, uniqueness and the ability to sustain themselves… through local traditional activities? Fishing is associated with research, leisure, education, landscape, sport, tours, bio-food, housing, biodiversity. It is not a project based on objects, but a process integrating new elements to what is already on site, by integrating new activities complementing other existing and connecting to the multifunctional model of development: "to do much with very little".

Santo Tirso, by Conceição Melo

The projects for Santo Tirso, in particular the three prize winners, take into account the strategic location and the recognition of

5 - SANTO TIRSO (PT), SPECIAL MENTION - PLAY TIME > SEE CATALOGUE P.163
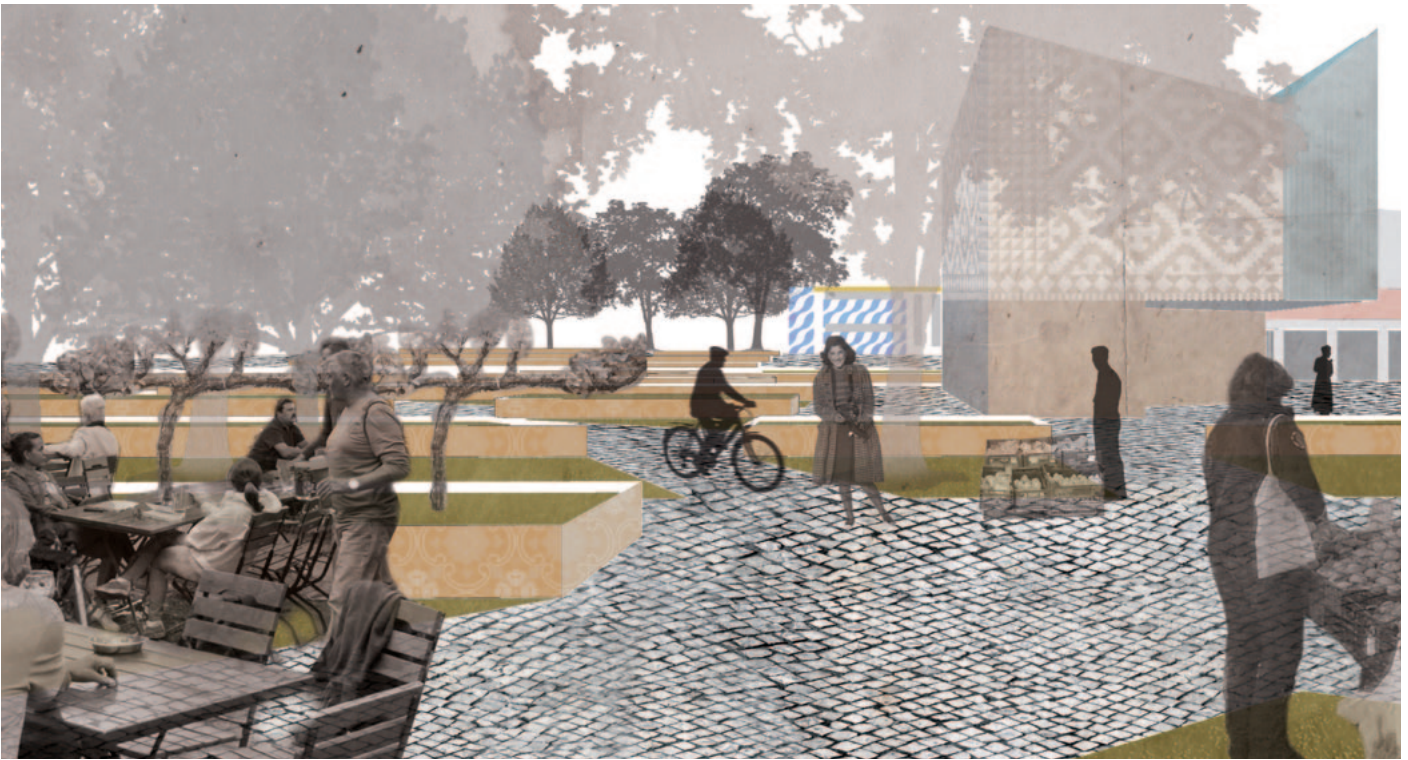
6 - SANTO TIRSO (PT), RUNNER-UP - 3TIRSOLINES > SEE CATALOGUE P.162

its importance in urban and social life. It is essential to counteract the current abandon trend, through a commitment to a more adaptive strategy that reconnects Santo Tirso market with city areas offering new possibilities for urban vitality. In order to reconnect dismissed agricultural areas to the production chain, the market will be the last link, allowing direct interaction between producers and consumers, by offering them new possibilities to show the products, creating employment and increasing local food culture.

With different approaches, the three projects respond to these strategic objectives, recovering the space adjacent to strategies of public space and increased soft mobility in progress. All of them demonstrate sensitivity to local problems and Europan 13 theme: *Play Time*, special mention (fig.5), focuses more on the role and intervention in the market building; *3tirsolines*, runner-up (fig.6), makes a big bet on green corridors in conjunction with the strategic area; and *FOODlab Santo Tirso*, winner (fig.7), focuses on the market conversion with new roles and surroundings on a going concern perspective.

The options awarded enable the phasing of the project, facilitating their implementation and adaptation to the conditions of construction and financial engineering. The proposal for the market's internal functional reorganization and improvement of environmental conditions through the central courtyard coverage, proposes greater communication between the building and the outside space. The pergolas solution, designed in a sensitive way and articulated with footpaths and existing trees, redefines the square scale and solves its excessive size current problems as an urban place.

The project will be developed in close coordination with other partners in a dialogue managed by the municipality as a necessary condition for its success. The early involvement between the project team and the users is the critical point and the bound that can guarantee its success. The participation of Santo Tirso in the Europan 13 competition was essential for this subsidiary implementation strategy the local authority is building, supported by the international reflection on urban problems.

7 - SANTO TIRSO (PT), WINNER - FOODLAB > SEE CATALOGUE P.161

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