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CATEGORY

Territorial/urban

LOCATION Neuchâtel Les Jeunes-Rives**POPULATION** 32'340**STUDY SITE** 22.0 ha **SITE OF PROJECT** 15.0 ha**SITE PROPOSED BY:** City of Neuchâtel, in partnership with the Republic and Canton of Neuchâtel.**OWNERS OF THE SITE:** Republic and Canton of Neuchâtel (90%). City of Neuchâtel (10%).**TYPE OF ORDER AFTER COMPETITION:**

Site *Study site:* urban planning contract within the framework of the Area Development Plan "The Lake and the lakeside". Plan based on previously defined objectives.

Project site: mandate for development projects in the Harbour "Jeunes-Rives" area.

The city of "Neuchâtel" is an university and cultural town, well equipped, it is the capital of the watch industry.

The city will accommodate in May 2009 the 2nd national "mobility" meeting.

CHANGE TO OPERATE

The "Jeunes-Rives" district is an exceptional site reclaimed from the lake, located next to the downtown area and facing the Alps. It will be used to boost Neuchâtel's image. In 2002, the site hosted the National Exhibition and its residents discovered then all its potential uses. The challenge lies in the creation of a unique spatial and physical relationship between the city and the lake. The redevelopment plan of the lakeside must provide for public use of the site and preserve the housing districts and university buildings that border the site, while protecting the existing landscape and natural environment.

The projects should include the construction of public facilities blending in with the site morphology.

Associated with the existing urban activities and drawing from the city's heritage, the redevelopment plan of the "Jeunes-Rives" district must contribute to the expansion of sustainable tourist activities.

CITY STRATEGY

Neuchâtel is a university town and the capital of the Canton bearing the same name. It is also a centre for micro-technologies.

This is why a number of international companies using techniques inherited from clock making know-how settled there. As the territory is clearly defined between the foot of the mountain and the lake, the city favours the redevelopment of urban waste lands, in particular in the railway station district which is now home to the Federal Statistics Office. With an increased density it is possible to retain the quality of the built and natural heritage of the old districts.



SITE DEFINITION

The *study site* spreads from the old city to the "La Maladière" stadium and includes all the area's urban fabric and accesses.

The *project site* spreads from the Old Harbour in the West to the skating rinks in the East.

It includes the open and partially built lakeside area that begins at the limits of the 19th Century docks.

Plans must be made for one - or more - structure dedicated to public service activities of regional interest.

Education, research (linked to the University), health, culture, sports, leisure, tourism, environment protection will be available in the *project site*. Proposals must focus on the site's quantitative and qualitative potential and on an urban expression that will bring the housing districts and the lakeside closer to boost the use of the lakeside by the residents.

The project should also include a multifunction centre that will host temporary activities and events. Its design must take into account the surrounding neighbourhood and make provision for the containment of potential noise pollution.

NEW URBAN MOBILITY

Proposals must take into account access to the site by all the transport modes. Public transport and soft mobility will be favoured.

The proposed activities and structures must be consistent with the parking space requirements, the traffic generated and the control of environmental impacts. Areas primarily dedicated to pedestrians will be preserved, extended and improved.

Connections between the city and the lakeside will be improved functionally and quality-wise.

NEW SOCIAL LIFE

Public space planning must take into account: the attraction of the Old Harbour from a functional and tourist angle, the ambition to turn the "Jeunes-Rives" into a landscaped city park, as well as the needs of the whole population (families, children, adults, young people and elderly).

Public spaces must attract residents and tourists alike (development of a sustainable urban tourism), in particular by creating venues for cultural, sports and popular events, while maintaining the traditional role of public spaces as places where people go for a walk and relax.

NEW ECOLOGY

Landscaping must be part of a global concept and will respect the natural environment and biodiversity in compliance with Neuchâtel's "Nature in the city" Program.

Proposals must comply with local environment and nature protection regulations, especially with regulations on: traffic, car noise, air protection, noise pollution from human activities, landscape and water protection.

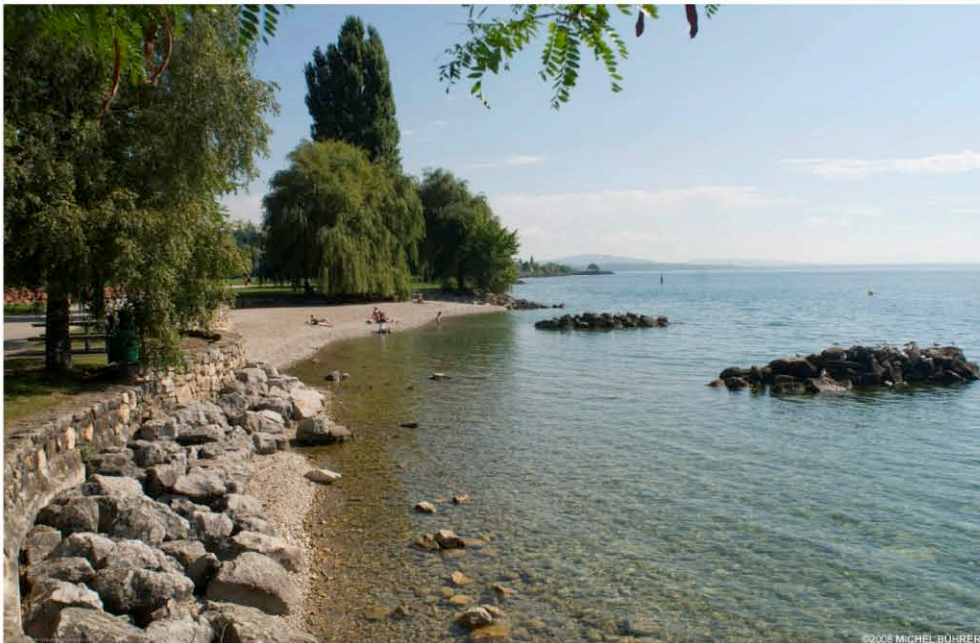




Car park in the project site – land use must be redefined



Limits of the project site with the "Jeunes-Rives" housing district



The "Jeunes-Rives"



Pedestrian promenade along the project site with the lake to the left