Minutes of the Jury’s deliberations

AGREEMENT ON THE EVALUATION OF WORKS PRESENTED FOR THE TENTH EUROPEAN PRIZE FOR URBAN PUBLIC SPACE (2018), AN HONORARY PRIZE THAT IS JOINTLY AWARDED BY THE ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION (AF), THE ARCHITEKTURZENTRUM WIEN (AzW), THE CENTRE DE CULTURA CONTEMPORÀNIA DE BARCELONA (CCCB), THE CITÉ DE L’ARCHITECTURE ET DU PATRIMOINE (LA CITÉ), THE DEUTSCHES ARCHITEKTURMUSEUM (DAM), THE MUZEJ ZA ARHITEKTURO IN OBLIKOVANJE (MAO) AND THE ARKKITEHTUURIMUSEO (MFA).

Barcelona, 19 April 2018

At the headquarters of the Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona, the Jury is comprised of Ms. Olga Tarrasó, architect, representing the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB) as President of the Jury; Mr. Peter Cachola Schmal, director of the Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM); Mr. Matevž Čelik, director of the Muzej Za Arhitekturo In Oblikovanje (MAO); Mr. Hans Ibelings, editor of The Architecture Observer (Amsterdam/Montreal); Ms. Ewa P. Porębska, editor-in-chief of the Architekturamurator magazine (Warsaw); Mr. Francis Rambert, director of the Institut Français d’Architecture (Cité de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine); Ms. Katharina Ritter, exhibit curator of the Architekturzentrum Wien (AzW); Mr. Ellis Woodman, director of The Architecture Foundation (AF) and Mr. David Bravo, architect, in his capacity as Secretary who certifies the authenticity of this document.

First, the Jury proceeded to discuss the system of organisation for analysing and selecting the works (presented within the time period established in the Prize Regulations) and agreed that all members of the Jury will make a general review of the 279 candidatures. The Jury then proceeded to review and analyse the works. As a result of the aforementioned review and after a final discussion, the Jury decided to award a First Prize and five Special Mentions to the following works in the European Prize for Urban Public Space 2018:
Winner

The Jury of the European Prize for Urban Public Space 2018 awards a First Prize to:

[K056] Renovation of Skanderbeg Square
Tirana (Albania), 2017
Author: 51N4E
Developer: Bashkia Tiranë, Government of Albania

Skanderbeg Square has a centrality in Tirana and the Albanese collective memory, as the main space of representation of the socialist dictatorship, and as the symbolic centre of the capital and the nation. The decision to leave the square empty and slope it gently towards a small elevation in the middle, is part of a strategy to counter its previous symbolism. Water from small fountains trickles down the slopes, which are paved with stones from across the country. This offers an intentional yet unassuming connection with Albania’s national identity; otherwise the space is notably free of ideological imagery. The empty square is surrounded by a green perimeter which acts as a filter and absorbs a variety of social functions. The informality of the green zone spill over to the square and helps to strip it of the monumentality its size implies and gives it a casual atmosphere. This is one of a number of fine Albanian projects submitted for the Prize, showing that despite limited resources the country understands the importance of investing in public space.

Special Mentions

The Jury of the European Prize for Urban Public Space 2018 also awards five Special Mentions to:

[K081] Poblenou “Superblock”
Barcelona (Spain), 2017
Author: Àrea d’Ecologia, Urbanisme i Mobilitat. Ajuntament de Barcelona
Developer: Ajuntament de Barcelona
As a first step in tactical urbanism, the superblock envisages a much broader strategy embracing the whole city. It is conceived as a blueprint more than as a finished project, a process rather than a plan. It is based on the idea that the street is not just infrastructure for mobility but a place of social interaction. It reclaims space from cars in order to make room for a network of buses, bicycles, and pedestrians while also demonstrating that streets can be reclaimed for everyday life. It is a social as well as an environmental action, involving reorganisation rather than material transformation. This project, while controversial, has brought to light important questions about pollution and the invasion of public space by cars. It has shown that before transforming the city it is necessary to change citizens' perceptions of what a city is.

[K127] Zollverein Park
Essen (Germany), 2018
Author: Planergruppe GmbH Oberhausen
Developer: Stiftung Zollverein

A park has been constructed in a UNESCO World Heritage Site consisting of a group of 1920s industrial buildings originally used as coal-mining infrastructure. This well-known project, initiated more than twenty years ago, is now coming to fruition in a combination of industrial archaeology and semi-cultivated nature, producing a new picturesque aesthetic which has been highly influential. Some buildings have been refurbished for specific cultural purposes, and the park has bicycle lanes, ice-skating rinks and other amenities. Hence, it combines the exceptionality of an internationally recognised site with everyday uses without domesticating the still-wild feel of this large site which was closed for years.

[K015] “PC Caritas”
Melle (Belgium), 2016
Author: architecten de vylder vinck taillieu, BAVO
Developer: KARUS

Since it has been opened to the public, this space embracing a psychiatric hospital building and its grounds allows hospital staff, patients, visitors and passers-by to mingle. It is strong in its public and social sense of contact with the “other” by allowing exchanges in an unusual, original
way whereby an almost destroyed building has been converted into part of an open structure, rather than the reverse. The space is demarcated by several thresholds and combines the three elements of building, general structure and park. The blurring of boundaries provides a relaxed sense while preserving the safety of limits. The project is commendable since the concept of including the psychiatric centre as part of public space was complicated in both technical and social terms from the very beginning.

[K299] Stage
Dnipro (Ukraine), 2017
Author: STAGE: СЦЕНА community
Developer: NGO Kultura Medialna and citizens of Dnipro

A temporary open-air stage, widely praised for its simple, elegant form, has been built on the site where a Stalinist-era theatre once stood. The project is the first successful example of people from a range of different associations, NGOs and other entities working together on a public project. The work was financed by crowdfunding. This stage, created by the community, has become a venue for many activities and opens up new possibilities for the future.

[K187] “Cuyperspassage”
Amsterdam (The Netherlands), 2016
Author: Benthem Crouwel Architects, Irma Boom Office
Developer: Gemeente Amsterdam, Dienst Infrastructuur Verkeer en Vervoer

This project is one aspect of a major transformation of the Central Railway Station. A new tunnel for pedestrians and bicycles has been built on the west side to connect the city centre with the ferry terminal. Crowd management in and around the station had become a problem and the new tunnel has now eased bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Providing a domestic touch, traditional hand-painted blue and white tiles line the wall on the pedestrian side dramatically adjoining a black track for bicycles. Whereas the tunnel itself is a pragmatic piece of infrastructure, this generous treatment has turned it into a dignified, comfortable space.
Finalists

Finally, the Jury of the European Prize for Urban Public Space 2018 selects as Finalists the following works:

[K012] Blue House Yard
London (United Kingdom)
Author: Meanwhile Space CIC, Jan Kattein Architects
Developer: London Borough of Haringey

[K100] Reabilitação da Alameda Manuel Ricardo Espírito Santo
Lisbon (Portugal)
Author: José Adrião arquitectos
Developer: Câmara Municipal de Lisboa

[K119] Chiado - Ligação do Pátio B com os Terraços do Convento do Carmo
Lisbon (Portugal)
Author: Álvaro Siza with Carlos Castanheira
Developer: Câmara Municipal de Lisboa

[K156] Monument for an Open Society
Brussels (Belgium)
Author: ORG Permanent Modernity
Developer: Abattoir NV

[K158] L’enfance du pli
Meyrin (Switzerland)
Author: Gilles Brusset Gilles Brusset
Developer: Ville de Meyrin

[K181] Play Landscape be-Mine
Beringen (Belgium)
Author: Carve, OMGEVING landscape architecture and urbanism
Developer: Municipality of Beringen

[K191] Lea River Park
London (United Kingdom)
Author: 5th Studio
Developer: London Legacy Development Corporation (with London Borough of Tower Hamlets and London Borough of Newham)

[K194] Memorial 22/3
Brussels (Belgium)
Author: Bureau Bas Smets in collaboration with SON-group
Developer: IBGE Institut Bruxellois pour la Gestion de l'Environnement

[K195] Waterfront
Himara (Albania)
Author: Bureau Bas Smets in collaboration with SON-group
Developer: Albanian development fund; City of Himara
[K219] ENCI-Gebieds Transformatie
Maastricht (The Netherlands)
Author: Rademacher de Vries Architects
Developer: Stichting Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij ENCI gebied

[K225] Lungomare
Vlore (Albania)
Author: Xaveer De Geyter Architects
Developer: Fondi Shqiptar i Zhvillimit

[K226] I am a Monument! Free revalorization Postblock
Berlin (Germany)
Author: KARO* architekten – Antje Heuer, Bert Hafermalz, Prof. Stefan Rettich
Developer: DSK Deutsche Stadt- und Grundstücksentwicklungsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG

Costa de Caparica (Portugal)
Authors and developers: ateliermob, Colectivo Warehouse, Community of Terras da Costa

[K243] Les Courtillières
Pantin (France)
Author: l'AUC
Developer: Ville de Pantin

[K253] Terzo Giardino
Florence (Italy)
Author: F. Ciaravella, U. Daina, V. Fiore Studio ++
Developer: Consorzio di Bonifica Medio Valdarno, Regione Toscana Genio Civile Valdarno Superiore

[K282] A square below the castle and a playground "Zamorc"
Škofja Loka (Slovenia)
Author and developer: Robert Potokar

[K287] Garden Ring: bringing gardens back
Moscow (Russia)
Author and Developer: Strelka KB

[K293] Carrer Plaça
Barcelona (Spain)
Author: bosh.capdeferro arquitectura
Developer: Barcelona d'Infraestructures Municipals (BIMSA), Ajuntament de Barcelona

[K295] Le Jardin Niel
Toulouse (France)
Author: Miquel Batlle, Michèle Orliac
Developer: Mairie de Toulouse
Agreement

In agreement with all the above, the Jury members and the Secretary sign these minutes of the Jury’s deliberations:

Signed: Olga Tarrasó

Signed: Peter Cachola Schmal

Signed: Matevž Čelik

Signed: Hans Ibelings

Signed: Ewa P. Porębska

Signed: Francis Rambert

Signed: Katharina Ritter

Signed: Ellis Woodman

Signed: David Bravo