



**public space
2022**

european prize for urban public space 2022

minutes of the jury's deliberations

At the headquarters of the **Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB)**, the jury for the 2022 European Prize for Urban Public Space is constituted by Mrs **Teresa Galí-Izard**, agricultural engineer and landscape designer (Barcelona/Zurich), who serves as the jury's president; Mr **Hans Ibelings**, architectural critic and historian (Montreal); Mrs **Eleni Myrivili**, anthropologist and heat resilience expert (Athens); Mr **Andreas Ruby**, architecture critic (Basel), Mrs **Paloma Strelitz**, strategist and creative director focused on cities, culture, and technology (London), Ms **Špela Videčnik**, architect (Ljubljana) and Mr **Lluís Ortega**, architect (Barcelona), who serves as secretary and notarises the minutes.

statement

We, the jury, appreciated the diversity of the submitted projects. We would now like to highlight the key themes and values represented in the range of proposals that we first shortlisted and then selected as finalists.

Firstly, we acknowledge the urgency of climate change and the critical importance of creating spaces that promote sustainability and public wellbeing through the intelligent use of natural resources.

From canals to new typologies of public squares, a number of the projects demonstrate ambitious new paradigms for public space, as we move away from a car-centric urban model.

We have seen projects combining ecological and social value in new ways, and we have particularly welcomed those initiatives that encourage biodiverse ecosystems, ranging from productive planting to the cultivation of wilderness within public space.

As a jury, we recognise the greatly varied economic and social conditions across Europe. We are aware that different teams must face distinct challenges, especially when it comes to delivering meaningful civic projects in places where there are limited resources and/or a lesser appreciation of the value of urban public space.

Finally, we also want to celebrate the varied civic actors, from grassroots activists to local governments, who are taking on the challenging task of fostering the creation and ongoing care of inclusive urban spaces.



procedure and assessment

The jury meets on three occasions.

The first meeting takes place online, and its purpose is to discuss the procedure for the analysis and selection of the 326 projects presented within the deadline as established in the rules.

Each member of the jury individually evaluates each presented project. In a second meeting of the jury, this time in person, in Barcelona, all the votes are counted. After in-depth assessment and debate about the projects, a unanimous selection of twenty-five projects is made. From these twenty-five selected projects, five finalists are then identified.

The finalists are invited to Barcelona, where there is a public presentation of the projects, and members of the jury can raise questions, leading to conversation. Then, the jury proceeds to deliberate, before deciding on the winner of the First Prize of the 2022 European Prize for Urban Public Space.

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The Jury of the 2022 European Prize for Urban Public Space awards the **Prize** to:

Catharijnesingel

Utrecht (Netherlands), 2020

Developer: Gemeente Utrecht

Authors: OKRA Landschapsarchitecten

The jury considers this reconstruction of the canal, as well as the recovery of a linear park running along its banks, to be an exemplary intervention for the survival of our cities in the new climate era.

The canal is crucial for developing urban resilience here: it is increasing the city's capacity to deal with extreme heat, storms and flooding. The recuperation of water and vegetation helps capture carbon and pollution. The canal is also a desirable and playful place to be for the city's residents, and it creates, at the same time, new habitats for other living beings.



The jury considers that this intervention is part of a larger urban transformation, which looks to the future by bringing back elements from the city's past.

The canal has been returned to its original state, after having been replaced, for more than fifty years, by a large highway. This project not only diminishes motorised traffic, but, and more importantly, it prioritises pedestrian mobility and social interaction, as well as porous surfaces and a rich biodiversity. These aspects are what make our cities healthy, sustainable and enjoyable. With this prize, we commend and congratulate the client, teams and stakeholders, and we hope that their project inspires a new standard for sustainable urban regeneration.

finalist projects

The Jury of the 2022 European Prize for Urban Public Space also highlights the finalist status of the following four projects:

FLOW

Brussels (Belgium), 2021

Developer: POOL IS COOL

Authors: Jozef Wouters, POOL IS COOL

POOL IS COOL is a strategic urban project that addresses the absence of public swimming facilities in Brussels through the creation and celebration of open-air pools, crucial for wellbeing in times of global warming. Flow is an intervention that creates an inclusive, intergenerational space for getting together, taking part in activities and swimming. Flow's theatrical design, with generous balconies, frames the pool and the act of swimming as a fundamentally social activity. This project convincingly demonstrates the social value of swimming, and further elevates POOL IS COOL's ongoing work to champion and create spaces for open-air public swimming in Brussels.

Sporta pils dārzi (Gardens of Sporta Pils)

Riga (Latvia), 2021

Developer: Artilērijas dārzi

Authors: Artilērijas dārzi



The jury recognises this project as a valuable effort to restore the notions of community and social fabric. The project shows how vacant lots, under private ownership and waiting for development, can be temporarily repurposed for the community in the meantime. It is powered by an activist spirit, operating in the interests of the public and serving the needs of the local residents. It was created with zero budget, using materials donated by private businesses: this project shows how you can produce public space in contexts where political stakeholders don't see public space as a social priority. Furthermore, gardening is used to demonstrate how the community can improve the conditions of their lives themselves. The wild vegetation, which had grown by itself following the abandonment of the site, is used as a vital part of the landscape: it enables biodiversity and food production, and has a beauty of its own, in a bold reinterpretation of the public square typology. The jury hopes that the city government of Riga will recognise the importance of the temporary occupation of vacant lots by supporting similar projects, and that private developers understand the crucial role of public space and green environments in their own schemes. Even though it started out as an interim-use space, this project actually deserves a long-term perspective because it contributes essential qualities to the city centre of Riga.

Place Saint-Sernin

Toulouse (France), 2020

Developer: Toulouse Métropole

Authors: BAU (Joan Busquets, Pieter-Jan Versluys), MDP (Michel Desvigne), LEA, EGIS

This project is a contemporary update of a historic public space, one which is defined by the presence of a Romanic Basilica, in the city of Toulouse. It is a distinctive example of how public space can be designed in an ancient European setting.

The layers of history are revealed via the creation of a new planting scheme that takes into account the regeneration of an existing grove of trees. The new volume of the tree canopy opens up views, and creates enclosures and continuity with both the monument and an existing nearby garden. The new public space gets rid of the car park, and now accommodates a diverse and vibrant community who engage in a range of social activities, including nocturnal events framed by a careful lighting project.



Hage

Lund (Sweden), 2021

Developer: Lunds Domkyrka (Lund Cathedral)

**Authors: Price & Myers, Brendeland & Kristoffersen
Architects**

Hage is part of the Raangen Master Plan, which presents a radical alternative to conventional greenfield urban development. Lund Cathedral is engaged in a long-term commitment to develop this new district in a way that focuses on the values of community, ecology and public provision. Hage, an enclosed garden, is the first open-ended and permanent intervention in this area, which is going to be developed incrementally, over a long period of time, with a 1000-year perspective. The architects have created a space for meeting, contemplation and experimentation, which will help inform the long-term evolution of this residential neighbourhood.



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



Signed: Teresa Galí-Izard



Signed: Hans Ibelings



Signed: Eleni Myrivili



Signed: Andreas Ruby



Signed: Paloma Strelitz

Signed: Spela Videčnik



Signed: Lluís Ortega