

EUROPAN.

EUROPEAN RESULTS

8.

EUROPEAN URBANITY





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THE MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN
CHARGE OF EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND
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AND
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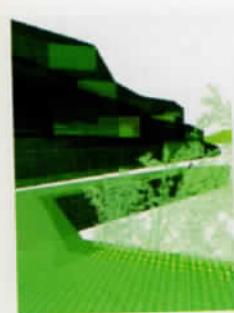
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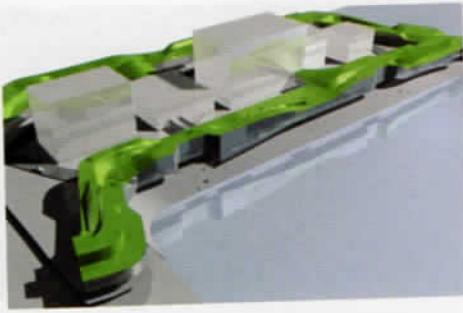
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TRANSGENIC LANDSCAPES
CARTES (ESPAÑA)



URBAN DECK
HAMBURG, DEUTSCHLAND



SENSORIAL URBANISM
CORDOBA, ESPAÑA



THE DOWSING ROD
CARTES, ESPAÑA

The steep cliffs of Ceuta, Finnish islands and forests, Slovenian bays, the beaches of Palermo: the great natural sites presented in this eighth session of the competition have occupied a space that would have been unimaginable 10 years ago. Not that we have gone in search of territories that escape from the city, outside its walls, but because we have to recognize that the future of these sometimes scarcely occupied sites is now, for everyone, a major issue in urban development.

THE LIVING AND DIVERSITY

The process of the living, in the biological sense, is present more or less metaphorically in the projects. Here nature fascinates by its capacity for self-organization and adaptation over time, and by its diversity.

THE RULES OF THE GAME

The projects based on a rule of combination, reflecting the synthesis of living cells, are almost a long-established tradition. Thus the runner-up project "transgenic landscapes" in Cartes starts with a rectangle whose edges thicken to integrate routes and services in the width of the contour. Then the form breaks into a zigzag, trapeze-

shaped or rhomboidal here and there. The rule of the game is so simple, so effective, through its metamorphoses, that it ensures integration into the crater of the quarry. More than just a rule, what emerges here is a form of international architecture. One might regret that it is applied whatever the type of ground.

The project's implementation method and adjustments in its representation are a recurrent concern. The runner-up project "urban deck" in Hamburg uses a very simple principle to install an active, broad, constructed promenade in an interface between the town and the pond. The thematic cartography and axonometric work express the solidity of the concept and its capacity for variation: future modifications come about without any need for exhaustive, combinatory representations or any radical questioning of the basic option.

DIVERSITY: BIO-DIVERSITY OR "URBIDIVERSITY"

Whole plates present tables of intersecting typologies and variations, enumerate public registers and spatial systems, demonstrate the adaptation capabilities of modules and the variety of assemblages. How to interpret the extremely

methodical inventory listed by many teams as in the runner-up project "sensorial urbanism" in Córdoba, with its detailed registration forms by family, even though one realises they are only an illustration of possibilities? Is housing reduced to a potential, to statistics, a probable anthropological object? One would expect projects taking into consideration what remains stable and also, within the same movement, the unstable that permits the life of the place, its transformations, its coming mutations. Thus natural environments are at the same time immensely diverse and founded on land whose resistance permanently reorients its evolution. What allows for natural inertia, i.e. duration or geography, in these projects?

The development of "urbidiversity" – in the same way as biodiversity – nonetheless runs through most of the projects. The runner-up project "The dowsing rod" in Cartes expresses quite literally and figuratively the metaphorical rule that gives shape to the plan's concrete realisation. However, the ground should be freed of the permanent edifices which are not constructed in gradual layers as they appear in the drawing, in order to restore the lightness of the images of reference, where water alternately traces and effaces interlacing furrows in the sand. In Cartes again, the winning

**EUROPAN.
THEME.
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1.



PEER TO PEER
CARTES, ESPAÑA



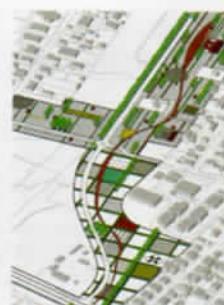
EDWARD SCISSORHANDS
BREZICE, SLOVENIJA



ILONA
RIGA, LATVIA



URBAN SPECIES SYSTEM
CORDOBA, ESPAÑA



STRATEGY PARK
ROMA, ITALIA



STONE
CHIAMPO, ITALIA

proposal "Peer-to-peer" evidently sets out to think about diversity. Virtuoso, methodical and precise, the authors renew a contemporary form of the picturesque. Their scheme is ingenious and succeeds in creating a labyrinth of a trendy village. But in reality there can be a gap between the overall organization and its implementation by a single team. Either the whole is co-ordinated, producing a sort of ramshackle Weissenhof, or else it brings up to date a more vernacular process which will raise the question of the right methods and materials to ensure unity and contrast.

ENVIRONMENTS

Very few attempts finally establish a correspondence between the search for diversity and the patient elaboration of a true "milieu". Some projects invest the natural territory not as a backdrop, such as the sea front, or by covering it through gradual colonisation, but from the centre, shifting the traditional point of view of the landscape. This stance is developed in the winning project "Edward Scissorhands" in Brezice, which explicitly links methodologies on very varied scales. This interlacing better recalls the notion of a milieu, which is never strictly limited but connected to different interwoven entities on variable scales,

not necessarily concentric. It is the process, not the ultimate form, that takes pride of place. This does not prevent the authors from working out a legible, hierarchic structure, or from defining each of the fragments, or from creating forceful landscapes. Here is a highly contemporary and rather refreshing posture.

GROUND AND RESOURCES

"Nature is the ground that bears us", wrote the French philosopher Merleau-Ponty. In territorial terms, the primary resource is in fact the ground, both as expanse and as matter.

EXPANSE AND MEASURE: GROUND PRESERVED, GROUND SATURATED

Taking into account the economy of the ground and the balance between built-up and "free" ground brings out a clear distinction between attitudes. The recurrence of more or less continuous patterns extending over the whole territory like a smooth blanket, without the edges or the grain of the plan being in any way coupled or in conversation with the surroundings, reveals the problem of associating very different scales within the same coherent organization. The pattern proposed often

extends like a system on the perimeter of study without ever outlining a real structure. The runner-up project "Ilona" in Riga or the winning project "urban species system" in Córdoba take the risk of enclosed aggregation and the housing estate, even if variations persist within the plan. This word "system" as opposed to "structure" fails to offer over time successive connections to different scales ensuring the flexibility of the scheme. This does not apply to the winning project "strategy park" in Rome, the leitmotif of which is precisely to install a structure both uniform and reactive, emergent and contingent, with its capacity for variations, within the perimeter of study.

MATTER, VERY INOBTRUSIVE

The ground as a "material" resource is amazingly unobtrusive. Only sites as emblematic as the Chiampo quarries in Italy inspire constructive imagination. The runner-up project "Stone" is incorporated into a widened geographical territory extending along the series of quarries of the Cuesta. Its tectonics is represented by the foliation of the model, intervention being restricted to elements of acupuncture. In the same location, the runner-up project "Rock + Roll" regards the site as a resource of opportunities. The forms issuing



EMERSION... SUBMERSION... TRANSITION
 PALMELA, PORTUGAL



STARING AT THE VOID
 RIGA, LATVIA



TIDETAKT
 HAMBURG, DEUTSCHLAND



GLOBAL FIELDS
 PALMELA, PORTUGAL

from the extracted stone are used as a matrix and the construction, which is minimal, makes use of the technology and resources of this old marble quarry.

In Palmela, the project runner-up project "Emersion... submersion... transition" constitutes a plinth emerging from the territory, after an elegant design on the borderline between Land Art, landscape and architecture, integrating all the programme's practicalities in a layer of ground.

One would however expect matter to be more of a foundation. Sustainable development should not only bring about new figures or new expedients, but novel ways of forging and gauging efforts and effects by means of construction.

THE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL GROUND

The conservation of large voids allows ground resources to be used sparingly. On suburban sites this low density is imperative. The usage and management methods of this preserved ground must nevertheless be defined, since the intensity of urban practices associated with it very often does not allow the restoration of any sort of ecological autonomy. The beautiful plan of the winning project in Riga, "Staring at the void", can possibly solve this dilemma. An expanse of landscape is installed between voids inside, between and around buildings, with up-cycled blocks. The built is at

one and the same time container, framework and content. The rigid form of the housing block turns into a kaleidoscope. The fragmentation however generates a very low overall density. If the project's density has to be increased, will they succeed in preserving the character of the void that is both frontal, panoramic and interstitial?

In the runner-up project "Tidetakt" in Hamburg, the alternation of high water levels justifies the wide cleft in the ground between the buildings. The model shows a bottle pouring water into the fissure as in an applied science documentary.

Finally, other projects return to the figure of the field, which appeared in the last session. Either the field is actually occupied by crops and tree-nurseries, or else it remains open, wild and available, as in Palmela in the runner-up project "global fields", a void to be filled with the contents of contemporary life. Hesitating between the vast hills of the adjacent nature reserve and the urban influence of the nearby capital, the village is bound by new public and tourist facilities following a continuous line that leaves the "global fields" free for use.

LIMITS AND URBANITY

The desire for urbanity – being together, diversity, services, animation, mobility – coupled with the desire for nature, suggests new urban figures. The main difficulty lies in establishing the limits,

their breadth, definition or imprecision or the way they interlace.

FIGURES OF SEPARATION OR CONNECTION

The frontier both connects and separates. Any notion of limit possesses this ambiguity. The geometric figures entrusted with ensuring the transition – or the distinction if you prefer – between natural and built-up land have become increasingly complex and cannot be reduced to the figure of the wall, "limes" in Latin.

Some of the proposals constitute in themselves a broadened limit between two features of the territory. The winning project "Sicilia mia" in Palermo is one of these. Its uniform geometry allows a good link-up with the coastal town's existing network yet introduces a majestic focus on the seascapes. In order to preserve the natural beach, the titanic character of the architecture should be toned down.

In the last few sessions, attempts to hybridise nature and architecture had lessened the power of closed figures. Yet several of this session's projects insist on separation. In Hénin-Carvin the runner-up project "Nature for everyday life" proposes an arrangement in which each island assembles several hot-house/dwellings, behind a hedge, in a private collective garden. The buildings are bioclimatic, the exterior wavering between the



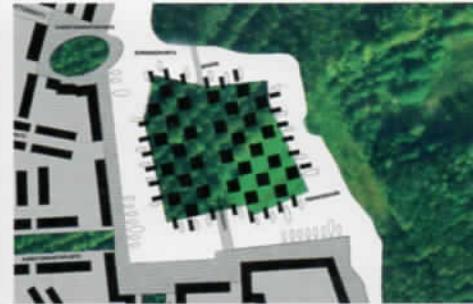
THE NATURE FOR
EVERYDAY LIFE
HÉNIN-CARVIN, FRANCE



BUTTERFLY IN FOREST
LAHTI, SUOMI-FINLAND



KALAKUKKO
KUOPIO, SUOMI-FINLAND



POROSITY
LAHTI, SUOMI-FINLAND

cheerful family garden and the relaxed "bourgeois hippy" courtyard. The idea of the shared garden is generous, even though one may question the nature of the fence surrounding each plot. But this inner suburb of barbecue parties remains relatively open compared to the runner-up project "Butterfly in the forest" in Lahti, where one fears that this stronghold, in contact with nature on its borders, may guard against the outside world.

**TOWN ON ONE SIDE, NATURE ON THE OTHER:
THE DUAL-FACED PROJECT**

In Kuopio, the runner-up project "Kalakukko" stretches out the tentacles of a hollow rhizome in the forest. The buildings that border it open on one side into the foliage, towards the lake; on the other side there is a service network of variable width. The pattern ensures at the same time a strong presence of nature and shared urbanity, in a bustling, animated public space. The design is original, masterly, creating sufficient porosity of the urban interior towards the natural exterior. It has to be admitted that the forest trapped in the jaws of the rhizome becomes a residential park, with changes in its usages and management, its traces even, as well as in the preservation of its equilibrium.

POROSITY

Interlacing and crossbreeding are called upon very little. Only the word "porosity" emerges here and

there, notably in the title of the winning project in Lahti. The "porosity" figures are the most explicit: starting from the built enclosure, they fragment the built maintaining an equivalent density but increasing transparency, passageways, views, diagonals, on a staggered chessboard arrangement, a pattern that is somewhat theoretical yet radical and effective. One no longer lives beside something, separated from both worlds, but among, between, in and with...

CITY-NATURE: ATTITUDES OR WRITING

There is no doubt that a renewed relationship with nature remains to be invented. The reasons are numerous, and not only related to the urgent need for maintaining ecological balance, economising resources and preserving environmental diversity. But the plans outlined in this search are paradoxical. Nowadays nature is in, around and across the town, the two once opposed elements being more and more crossbred. Representations of nature therefore echo those of the contemporary European town, primarily conceived in hedonistic terms. The relation to the landscape, the presence of nature, climatic resources, the quality of environments are mentioned positively in the projects, in terms of assets for well-being and the quality of life. Paradoxically, the contemporary city is also the world of fear, dissociation and rupture, a world of inequalities that often grates and should be repaired; a world in which public space, common

values and the very idea of sharing are in serious crisis. From this point of view nature is both a balm in the compensations it introduces into the proposals, and a danger in its most uncontrollable manifestations.

Over and beyond the designs, setting down a project today means firstly the right dosage of these two terms, and if need be a clash of opinions, cynicism or lyricism. The issue seems to lie both in the act of constructing the project and its economic aspects, on every scale, and in the arrangements, meaning the new, complex contexts and their links with the environment. The prizewinning projects could take a more decided stance, but they do enrich the search for other devices which could make it possible to close without shutting off, to conquer without annihilating. In every case, the tensions produced by unresolved paradoxes between the hedonistic town desired and the critical town endured, deprive project-making of all light-heartedness. We must pay tribute to the teams for their commitment and their good faith. But we also have to question projects that are more and more dematerialised. The saturated land is unable to absorb the spread of a homogeneous grid with its territorial greed that contradicts declarations of sensitivity and vitalism. Fortunately, this principle of sensitivity makes an elegant appearance in more structured projects based on contrasting scales, complex narratives in which geography and matter, strategies and nature still occupy their rightful place, echoing each other.

BUILDING WITH NATURE INSIDE THE URBAN ROMA ITALIA

POPULATION	2 810 000
LOCATION	DRAGONCELLO - CASETTE PATER
STUDY AREA	294 HA
SITE AREA	12 HA



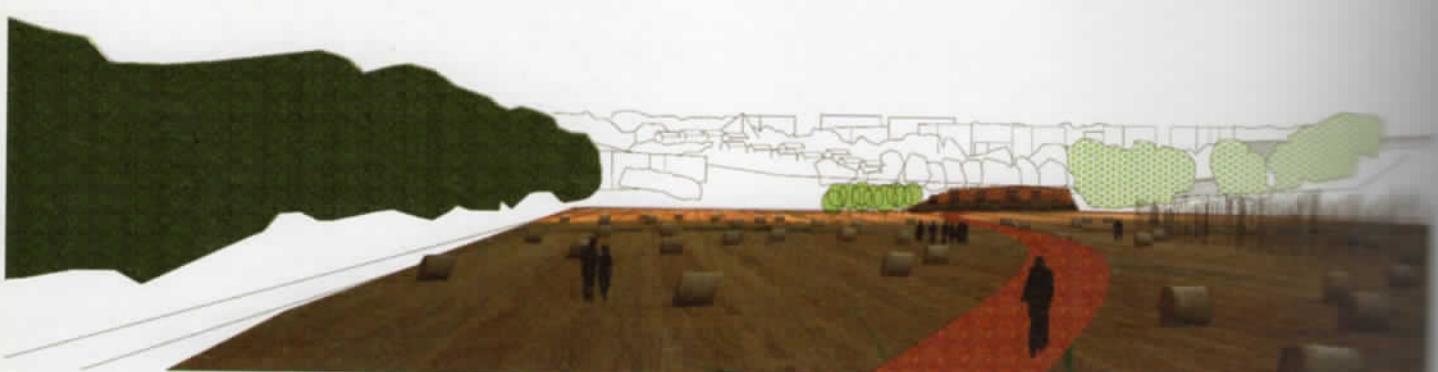
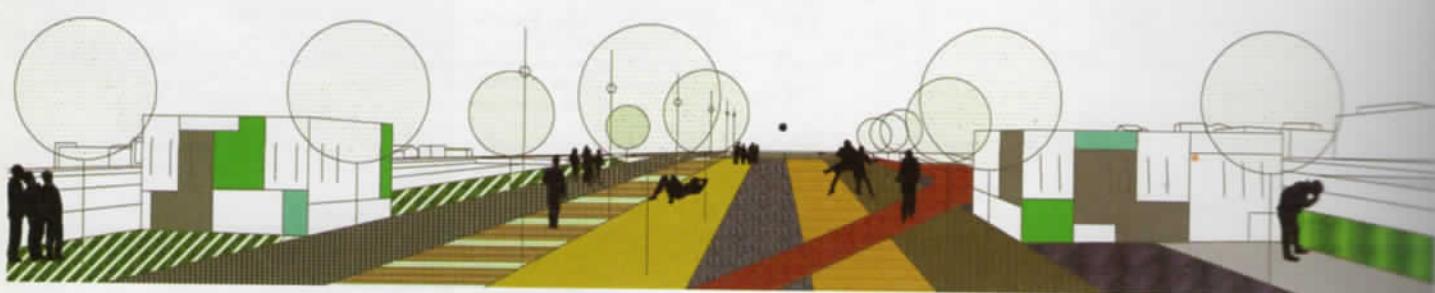
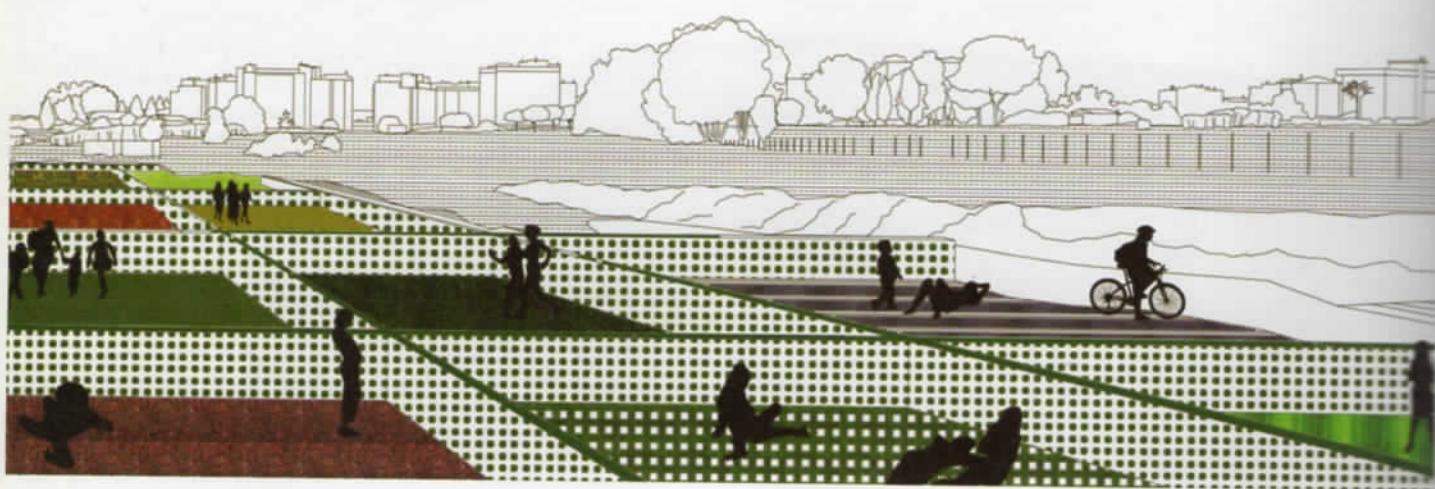
The competition site is a future public park to design. It is morphologically configured like an "ecological lane" that crosses an urbanized area and connects it to a larger territorial park and protected area.

The neighbouring fabrics, mainly spontaneous and fragmented at north, and mainly public and degraded at south, are completed by two margins of new housing, more dense. The area is characterised by a high accessibility by road from Via del Mare and by railway from the new station of Dragona on Roma-Lido line.

By means of the Programme of Urban Rehabilitation of Acilia-Dragona, the Municipality wants to implement new urban and environmental recognisable emergencies which define a system of central functions – public and private – that rehabilitate the existing building fabric. The planned interventions are: a public park; a cycle-pedestrian path; an outfitted area pertaining to the museum centre; public experimental subsidised housing. The experimental intervention should study of innovative typologies for socially underprivileged people and to update the technical regulations on energy savings.

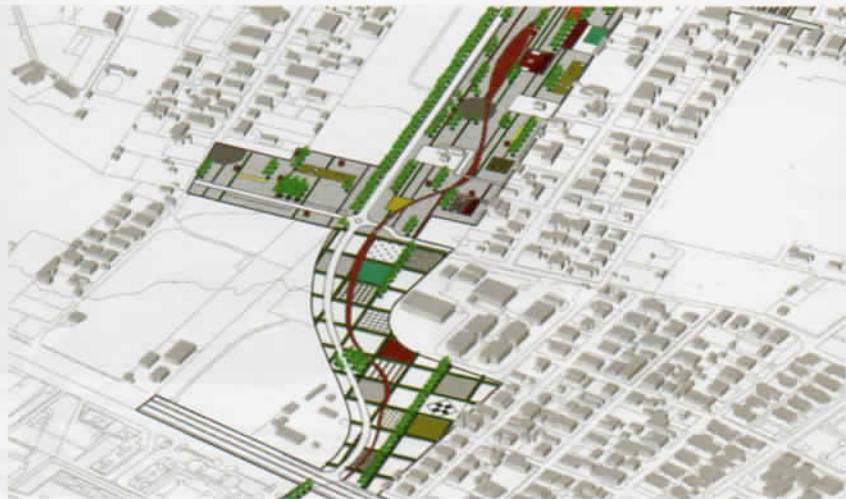
The intervention needs to configure, along the east-west axe, a strong environmental centrality integrated by the cycle-pedestrian path, with functions of access to the protected area – the National Reserve of the Roman Coast – and of connection between the different functions and the facilities located on the margins. However, in many points on the north-south axe, it should assure the permeability needed for the integration among the fabrics.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



ROMA
ITALIA
STRATEGY PARK
WINNER

MATTIA DARÒ (I) ARCHITECT
EUGENIA BUFFO (I) STUDENT
EMANUELA DI FELICE (I) STUDENT
CECILIA PALLOTTINI (I) STUDENT



The first step is to analyse the state of things: the unorganized tissue; the lack of services and of an organic connection between the parts; the void as absence and lack of quality.

The preliminary phase is a basic operation: beginning to qualify the area. It needs to create a structural grid to project the void. This projected void becomes the element of connection between the different areas.

Locating the different areas of the park (agricultural, urban, thematic gardens, museum/archaeology area) with reference to the different characteristics of the context (agricultural landscape, unorganized residential tissue, new residential programmes, new commercial buildings, archaeological sites, high-density residential programmes). This lack of homogeneity has different aspects: dimensional scale, planning typology, functional use. Such characteristics converged in the project's approach. The new qualification is the short-term phase of the project.

After finding the structural grid of the park and characterizing the areas in relation to their location, the project proposes some guidelines of action in the long term. It is not a design, but the definition of a system of functions and elements to be combined in connection with the general grid.

