

Landscape Forum Bucharest 2015

Prize winning teams of the first LE:NOTRE Student Competition

The first LE:NOTRE Institute student competition aimed to support integrated approaches to the urban and peri-urban landscape. Multidisciplinary student teams elaborated planning and design proposals at various scales for the Colentina Chain of Lakes in Bucharest. Six international teams were honoured at the award ceremony on 21st of April. The first prize went to a team from the Technical University of Delft in the Netherlands.



The competition was organized in advance to the fourth LE:NOTRE Institute Landscape Forum. The event took place from 21st to 25th of April. Hosted by the University of Agronomical Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest (USAMVB) and "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism

Bucharest (UAUIM), in Bucharest the competition was supported by the two universities as well as by the Romanian Association of Landscape Architects, Bucharest (AsoP), and the Romanian Professional Association of Urban Planners, Bucharest (APUR). The focal area was the chain of lakes along the river Colentina, which has huge potential for the sustainable development of Romania's capital city.

The LE:NOTRE Institute introduced this student competition in order to raise European consciousness among the young generation of planners and to promote interdisciplinary approaches to complex challenges in the urban/rural interface. Students were asked to combine planning and design skills in order to address complex situations in dynamic landscapes.

The major challenge of this competition was the scale: 25 kilometres of a complex urban periphery connected by a chain of natural and artificial lakes, marked by strong contrasts at various levels: functional, ecological, socio-cultural, ethical, aesthetic, heritage, economic and many more.

Participants were asked to submit two posters, one a landscape concept at 1:25,000 and a spatial concept for one of the four detailing areas at 1:5,000. 21 teams submitted a proposal, 9 of which were from outside Romania. Thanks to the landscape forum sponsors prizes of 1.800 Euro in total could be issued to the student teams.

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Impressions from the award ceremony and the competition exhibition



All submissions were exhibited in the exhibition hall at Ion Mincu University for Architecture and Urbanism in the period 21.-25.04.2015



Award ceremony with the LE:NOTRE Institute Board, IFLA-Europe and the Romanian Union of Architects



The winning team from TU Delft



Impressions from the exhibition

Image author: Mihai Culescu for the Romanian Association of Landscape Architects (ASOP Romania)

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First Prize '342.914km scaffolding'

Authors:

Maria Alexandrescu, Claudiu Forgaci, Anca Ioana Ionescu

University: Technical University of Delft, NL

Project summary

The '342.914km scaffolding' proposed in this strategy builds on the hidden web of natural and spontaneous urban processes of the periphery. It aims to grow a continuous green-blue corridor and to consolidate its relationship with Bucharest. The key component of the strategy is an adaptable module, a scaffolding capable to adjust to the particularities of each lake and to connect it to its wider landscape. The scaffolding builds a structure that is shared by both city and nature (outer and inner rings pulled together with a set of radial links). It encourages social and spatial interaction by following pre-existing structures and by crossing communities.

The first phase of the strategy connects, cleans and raises awareness: the inhabitants of gated communities are encouraged to encounter the world beyond the walls that isolates them; brownfields and water are cleaned; allotment gardening, cycling, sports and local initiatives are encouraged. In the second phase, the framework is consolidated into a continuous slow mobility network along the lakes, easily accessible from anywhere in Bucharest. In the third phase, the inhabitants of Bucharest can swim in the water that has been completely cleaned through natural processes. Doing a 'lakes tour' by bike is already one of the favorite recreational activities of people from all over Bucharest's metropolitan area.



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Second Prize – Green Infrastructure and Water Management

Authors:

Miruna Drăghia, Elena Rus, Agota Barabas, Andreea Toma

University: Ion Mincu University for Architecture and Urbanism, RO

Project summary

As a solution for the dysfunctions along Colentina the team proposed strategy of green infrastructure and water management, which aims to maximize the touristic, ecological, social and economic potential of the chain of lakes. Thus, the strategy proposes a connection between Dîmbovița River, the Colentina Lakes and the 'Bucharest Green and Yellow Belt' through Green Infrastructure (landscape - green streets, urban agriculture, sensitive urban design, community gardens, green promenades, playgrounds, buildings - green roofs, green walls, water - irrigation, drainage). The new links aim to strengthen the existing green spaces system and to add certain points of interest. One of the spaces created along the Colentina Lakes Chain is the Străulești Natural Park with a cultural and ecological intake. Thus, the park recreates natural habitats in order to attract potential wildlife.



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Second Prize – Maidan takes shape

Authors:

Rini James and Adriana Pápic

University: Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences, DE

Project summary

Maidan takes shape is a design proposal based on the concept of 'Maidans' (open spaces formed as a result of the surrounding built fabric) derived from the local planning context of Bucharest. The planning is a result of a thorough analysis of the city, its urban fabric and the prevailing situation along Colentina. To simplify this study the city has been analysed in the form of spatial layers of 5 basic elements as proposed by Kevin Lynch. Furthermore a SWOT, DPSIR and zoning help clearly identify the existing opportunities and the challenges to be addressed. Additionally, a traffic analysis indicating the current situation and our imagination to devise a clear and accessible network especially along the Colentina and its immediate surroundings has been developed.



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Third Prize – Productive Periphery Matrix

Authors:

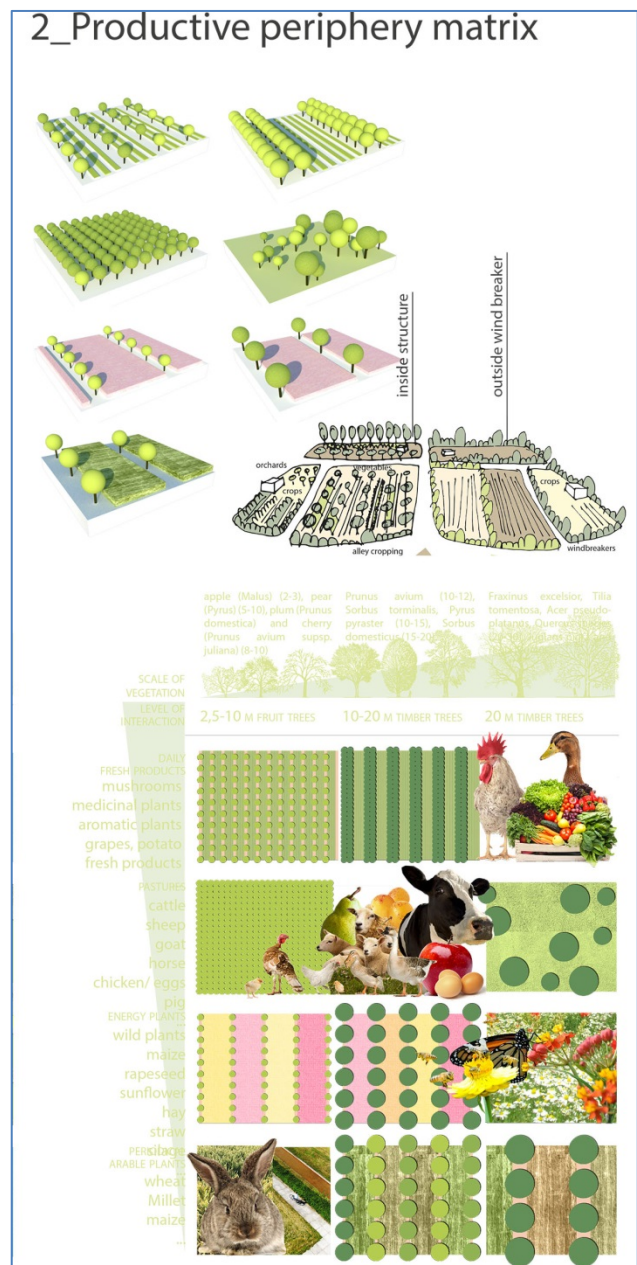
Kinga Jánosy, Andreia Oshiro,
Anna Szilagyi-Nagy

University: Nürtingen-Geislingen University, DE

Project summary

As a city in a process of intensive development, Bucharest has been expanding the urban borders towards its periphery producing relevant changes in the land use. The DPSIR method was applied to identify cause and effect of the landscape transformation along the Colentina River. The intensified urban growth as main driver shaped the landscape in the way to fulfill demands of housing and food supply. Natural forests were claimed for agriculture development. By the time these agriculture fields have been used for real estate investments without attention to current regulations of the land use, which generate an environment where basic infrastructure, like sewage system, water and waste treatment, are not available.

Other aspects were also observed, such as loss of open spaces and natural vegetation, decline of wetlands and habitats, fragmentation of landscape. In attention to such issues our research was focused on regulate land use and define water sensitive and multifunctional land use, raise awareness towards sustainability through education trials (bike, biogas), upgrading urban sprawl through establishing the necessary environmental infrastructure in the area (energy supply, clean water) and create aesthetically attractive places concentrating on the gradual changes of the landscape and with the interaction of the place.



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Fourth Prize – Bucharest Garden City

Authors:

Anca Andrei, Ana-Iulia Pandele, Florentina Costache, Mariuța A. Sitaru

University: University of Agronomical Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (RO)

Project summary

Bucharest was often described by travelers as a garden city. And so it was until the middle of 20th century – a garden full of flowers, vegetables, fruit trees and vineyards. And so we imagine it in the future: full of gardens. Along the entire river the garden, in its broader sense and as productive landscape, will be inflected in various forms – from community gardens to edible parks – that tackle general and local problems of the city from poverty to heritage and leisure. Thus it will be a way of reweaving the loose territories of wastelands; an educational tool; a re-framing of heritage areas reconnecting them with the traditional image of the city; a leisure area; a main socio-economic development instrument in the sprawling areas; a response to new bio- and ecological life-styles but also a social and economic reintegration mode for the poor areas. As main principle and concept food landscape is not considered just a fashionable topic but also the deepest way of recovering the past. It will be adapted to the present context – social and urban structure, land resources, local communities etc. The new gardens / food landscapes will represent an urban infrastructure able to respond to various social and spatial pressures; to insure the adaptability of the city to future.



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Fifth Prize – Integration and Connection

Authors:

Andreea Daniela Machidon and Cristina-Daniela Baltoi

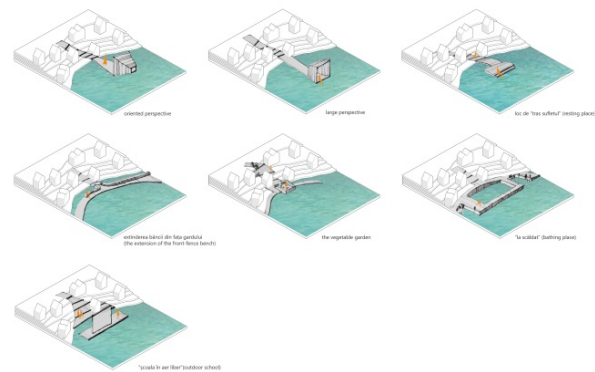
University: Ion Mincu University for Architecture and Urbanism (RO)

Project summary

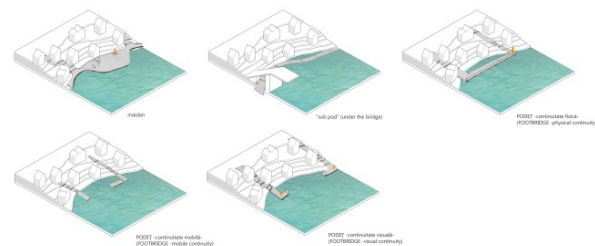
The entire solution is subordinated to the concepts of integration and emphasizing the existing character of the place. The chosen area of study, along the lakes, comprehends all the existing typologies. The spatial organization varies from built to un-built, from rural to urban, from individual to collective, from random to organized. We identified three types of relation of the tissue towards the lake: The “ulita”- lane exemplifies a direct path to the water. The lane is recurrent along the perimeter of the lake in urban and rural environments, yet it addresses a rural approach. The “motul dealului”- top of the hill offers an indirect relation to the lake. A great part of the riverbank is occupied extensively by private residences, blocking the perspective towards the water. Still there are plenty of situations when the natural slope offers the support for interventions that can establish a visual relation.

The garden is a situation that involves indirect access to the lake. Both individual and collective plots have been developed without an integrative master plan, leaving small corners abandoned. Interventions in these areas can provide the marks towards the unseen water element. The proposals start from the particular situations and elements found in the areas of study. The aim is to create a coherent route, articulating existing perspectives, activities and design elements that could enhance the character of the place through minimal and flexible interventions. The approach relies on natural materials and local plants to diminish the impact on the formed ecosystems.

PROPOSED SITUATIONS FOR END-PERSPECTIVE TYPOLOGIES



PROPOSALS FOR THE TRAIL DISCONTINUITIES



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Competition organizing committee

Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urban Planning, Bucharest (RO):

Dipl.-Arch. PhD. Urb. Angelica Stan and Dipl.-Arch. PhD. Urb. Gabriel Pascariu

University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest (RO):

Assoc. Prof. PhD. Arch. Urb. Ioana Tudora

LE:NOTRE Institute and HfWU Nürtingen-Geislingen (DE): Dr.-Ing. Ellen Fetzter

Competition Jury

- Professor Fritz Auweck, landscape planner, Munich (DE), IFLA-Europe
- Christoph Menzel, landscape architect, Liège (BE) + ULB Brussels (BE)
- Dr Cristina Enache, architect, Ion Mincu University for Architecture and Urbanism (RO)
- Martha Fajardo, landscape architect, Bogota (CO), IFLA Former President, LALI (Latin American landscape Initiative) Chair
- Dr Piotr Lorens, ISOCARP Vice President YPP, Gdansk University of Technology (PL)
- Ioana Streza, landscape architect, Romanian Association of Landscape Architecture (RO)

Background of the Landscape Forum and the LE:NOTRE Institute

The LE:NOTRE institute has been established under the auspices of ECLAS, the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools, as an umbrella organisation for interdisciplinary collaboration between education, research and innovative practice in the landscape field

The goal of the LE:NOTRE Institute is to develop and strengthen the links between landscape education, research and innovative practice, in the public, private and not for profit sectors.

It aims to achieve this by furthering and facilitating communication, collaboration and cross-fertilisation of ideas on an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral basis, in order to promote the wider and deeper understanding of the cultural, environmental, social and economic role of the landscape for the benefit and well-being of society as a whole.

Forum participants are invited to become members of the LE:NOTRE Institute.

Contact

LE:NOTRE Institute

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We thank all Landscape Forum partners and sponsors

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