

LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum Cyprus 2016

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMPETITION

The Akamas Landscape Between Science and Myth



1. GENERAL PRESENTATION

This International Student Competition is part of the 5th Landscape Forum of the LE:NOTRE Institute. This event will be hosted by the Neapolis University in Paphos, Cyprus from 16th - 20th of March 2016.

The forum will focus on the north-western region of Cyprus including the peri-urban landscape of Paphos and the natural areas of the Akamas peninsula. As referred to in the European Landscape Convention, the forum will reflect on landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes. Both exist in the project area creating a unique set of challenges and potentials.

2. COMPETITION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Neapolis University of Pafos, Cyprus:

Dr. Julia Georgi, Ass. Professor, Head of the Department Architecture, Land and Environment

Local experts:

Ing. Antonia Theodosiou, Architect & Environmental Engineer, Director of the Akamas Peninsula Project

Ing. Ioannis Koutsolambros, Board Member of Pafos 2017

LE:NOTRE Institute: Dr.-Ing. Ellen Fetzer

3. AIM OF THE COMPETITION

The LE:NOTRE International Student Competition aims to support integrated and holistic landscape approaches through multidisciplinary student teams elaborating planning and design proposals at various scales. This competition is implemented in close relation to the 'Akamas Action Plan for Sustainable Development of the Peninsula' developed by the Akamas Peninsula Project (A. Theodosiou).

Tourism in Cyprus has typically developed along its coasts with the consequence of concentrating both environmental impact and economic development in these areas. In contrast, the rural hinterland changed in a much different way, facing an ongoing transition of rural lifestyles towards a still uncertain modernity. The objective of this competition is to conceive a landscape narrative from the sea to the rural hinterland. The proposed transect starts at the coastline following the Avakas Gorge to the Pano and Kato Arodes Villages, situated at 500 m above sea level. Participating students will explore the natural, cultural and socio-economic layers of this landscape, as well as its spatial and aesthetic values.

A concept should be developed around the overall themes of sustainable tourism and cultural heritage. However, wider interpretations of how a sustainable development of this landscape can be enhanced are welcome. The detailing task is to design a park for amateur astronomy and star-watching, for which the area west of Kato Arodes village is reportedly very suitable.

The proposals should be developed around the following aspects. Participants are invited to interpret those and to set individual emphasises:

- Sustainable visions balancing the interplay of landscape scenery, habitat management, visitor flow and settlement development
- Enhancing, interpreting and integrating heritage elements and historical layers
- Concepts for nature-oriented tourism and environmental education focussing on the exploration of natural phenomena (i.e. geology, ecosystems, astronomy) and their translation into the landscape
- Sustainable traffic concepts, connectivity, enhancing modal shift and increased landscape experience by alternative means of transport
- Enhancement of ecological functions and ecosystem services of both the protected areas and the surrounding agricultural land
- Introduction of green infrastructure elements based on a conceptual framework
- Exploring any possible landscape-based assets creating possibilities for small enterprises in order to foster the landscape's socio-economic foundation

THEME: A TRANSECT OF THE AKAMAS LANDSCAPE



The Akamas peninsula is located in the most western part of the island of Cyprus. Due to its topography and specific geology the peninsula has remained largely unfragmented and only sparsely inhabited. Its ecological value is outstanding with extensive woodlands, numerous endemic species and even loggerhead sea turtle breeding place.

For decades, the British Army used Akamas as a temporary exercise ground which was certainly another reason preventing development. Today, the conservation status has significantly advanced and most of the area is protected according to the EU Natura 2000 guidelines and birds and habitats EU directives. The peninsula is associated with prominent figures of ancient Greek mythology such as Aphrodite and Akamas, Theseus' son, after which the landscape is named.

The widely unspoilt character of the peninsula contrasts strongly with the mass tourism areas located in relative proximity around Paphos. Therefore, the competition transect is located in a sensitive transition zone between the intensively developed touristic areas and the natural areas, where only nature-based tourism is suitable.

The competition teams are invited to take this specific regional context into account and to look for concepts that help balancing the needs, threats and benefits arising from both sides.



The transect stretches over seven kilometres from the Mediterranean Sea, via the protected Avakas Gorge through a pastoral landscape to the villages of Kato and Pano Arodes. Further context information is given in the detailed competition materials (available for registered participants). Map source: World Imagery, ArcGIS service directory



The villages of Kato and Pano Arodes with the proposed area for an Astro Park. The landscape is strongly shaped by topography, agriculture and pastures but also includes historical elements such as a traditional stone water reservoir and mills. See competition documentation for further information. Map source: World Imagery, ArcGIS service directory

4. OUTCOMES AND SUBMISSION FORMAT

Participants are asked to submit three posters (1x A1 double length + 2 x A1 regular) presenting the following contents:

1. Overall Concept and Framework

This poster will cover the entire transect and represent the overall strategy and key interventions. The working and presentation scale is 1:10,000. Aspects to be covered: landscape elements and their enhancement, functional zones including natural areas and open space typologies, connectivity, sustainable traffic. The overall 1:10,000 plan should be combined with conceptual diagrams (i.e. spatial and functional layers, wider regional context, bird eye view sketches, historical analysis). Keep explanatory notes short and concise. Format: A1 double length, normal height

2. The landscape of Kato and Pano Arodes

The second poster will show a spatial concept for the villages of Kato and Pano Arodes and their direct environment. Working and presentation scale is 1:5 000 with additional conceptual graphics and visualisations. Aspects to be covered: enhancing landscape character and landscape experience with reference to thematic routes and heritage elements (pre-concept exists), sustainable traffic for tourism and recreation, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services in the village landscape.

3. The Astro Park

The third poster will give a detailing for an amateur astronomy area at scale 1:1 000, hereinafter referred to as the 'Astro Park'. The site could be developed on a descending plot at the western edge of Pano Arodes, where old millstone boulders can be found and possibly reused for this new purpose. However, it is also possible to look for alternative spatial interpretations of an Astro Park. Aspects to be covered: conceptual idea with 1:1000 plan, one detailing at 1:100 scale and visualisations.



The area proposed for the Astro Park has an extraordinary view to the seaside, no light disturbance at night and is structured by old limestone walls and mill stone boulders. Image: C. Constantinides

The competition organisation is looking for reflexive and innovative approaches, giving value to the identity of the place and showing a strategy for project realisation.

REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION

The full set of background documents and plans is accessible after online registration. Registered participants will receive a neutral login ID which will also be used for submitting the proposals in an anonymous way. This ID needs to be shown on all submitted posters.

Please register under the following link: https://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=cat_12388&client_id=hfwu

4. PARTICIPANTS

The competition is open to students and recent graduates of landscape-related disciplines, in particular landscape architecture/planning, urban/regional planning and architecture as well as related disciplines such as arts, geography, agricultural sciences, dendrology, economics, environmental psychology, forestry, hydrology and water management, IT, archaeology, ecology, social anthropology, sociology or tourism. Levels of study may be bachelor, master or PhD. Recent graduates can participate if they are still in their professional training phase (stage or similar). Employees or relatives of the jury members may not enter the competition.

Both individual and group submissions will be accepted. Each student or group is allowed only one entry. Interdisciplinary submissions are welcome. However, the design should still focus on the configuration of the landscape, so consultation from and cooperation with landscape related disciplines is very important.

5. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A colloquium in the form of a web conference will be held on Wednesday, 18th of November 2015, at 18 pm CET. Registered participants will be able to submit questions for the colloquium in advance.

6. AWARDS

The LE:NOTRE Institute will award three prizes and select another three submissions for being honourably mentioned. The award winners will get the possibility to present their project at the LE:NOTRE landscape forum to a group of international professionals and local stakeholders. The results will also be documented on the LE:NOTRE Institute website.

7. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Poster size and format

The submitted project must comprise one overlength poster for the 1:10 000 transect (double length and normal height of A1) and two normal A1 posters (841mmx594mm, landscape format). The submission format is PDF. The submission is only online.

Submission ID

Each participant or participating team will receive a unique and anonymous ID upon registration. This ID needs to be put into the top left corner of each submitted poster. Size and format for the idea are: Arial, font 72. The posters must be numbered to be seen in that order during the selection.

Written information

Entrants must also submit a brief description (250 words maximum) in a separate PDF file, identified only by the anonymous ID (DO NOT include the names of the students or the name of the university).

This description must be a clear and concise text explaining the key aspects shown in the concept design proposal. The text is not to be justified, left aligned and double spaced, in Arial, font 12.

Competition language

All submissions must be entirely in English, which is the official language of the LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum. Local names and specific conditions of each country may be included in the local language. This is to ensure that all material can be understood by the jury, who conduct their reviews in English.

8. REQUIRED GRAPHICS

- **A scheme showing the envisioned relationship of the seaside and the rural hinterland**
- **A plan showing in a synthesis the analysis of the present landscape situation and the potential of intervention (1:10 000)**
- **Representation of the proposed concept and vision of intervention**
- **Spatial concept of the village landscape (1:5000)**
- **Detailing 1:1000 of the Astro Park with one design/technical detail at 1:100**
- **Cross sections, 3D drawings, sketches and details as necessary to illustrate the concept proposed. Both hand-drawn and computer-based visualisations are welcome.**

Individual PDF files should not exceed 50 MB, minimum resolution is 200 DPI.

It is the responsibility of the participants to guarantee that the final images and files are in the size and resolution adequate to their reading. The entrants must ensure that all images, photographs and other material taken from other sources are correctly accredited.

9. ANONYMITY AND PROTOCOL

All plans are supposed to bear the anonymous ID number given to each registered participant in the top left corner (Arial, font 72).

The following naming convention applies to all submitted files: Your ID_1.pdf, Your ID_2.pdf etc.

An additional PDF file, with the complete declaration form must be included. This must be fully completed. The declaration form will be submitted separately from the project PDF files, and will only be consulted by the jury once the final deliberations are completed.

10. COMPETITION RULES

Participation in the competition implies acceptance of the competition rules.

- Proposals received after the deadline will not be admitted.
- Presentations that do not include the declaration form will not be admitted.
- Submissions shall only be accepted if sent by the means established outlined above.
- A selection of the works submitted will be shown in an exhibition during the 5th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum in Paphos, Cyprus, and may be also be exhibited elsewhere at the discretion of the Local Organizing Committee
- The Local Organizing Committee retains the right of duplication or publication of any or all the material submitted to the competition, and there shall be no obligation whatsoever to the entrants, beyond acknowledging the authorship of the works exhibited or published.
- Submissions that have been published in any way prior to the notification of the jury final decision will not be considered
- The jury shall preside over the competition and is the sole arbiter at all levels until the final awarding of prizes. All decisions of the jury are final.
- The winners of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes shall be announced by the Chair of the 5th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum 2016 in Cyprus, upon recommendation of the jury
- All inquiries must be directed to the competition organising committee. Please read carefully through the brief and instructions, as all required information should be contained there. Jury member are not to be addressed in any way in relation to the competition.
- Participants will need to submit a declaration confirming that competition data and background information will not be used for other purposes.

11. SUBMISSION FORMAT

The submitted folder shall include:

- 3 PDF files - 1 for each of the A1 posters
- 1 PDF file with the Project Description
- 1 PDF file with the Declaration Form

All files must be completed in English. Registered participants will receive further information concerning the electronic submission.

12. JURY MEMBERS

- Professor Teresa Andresen, University of Porto (asked), (PT)
- Werner Rolf, landscape planner, TU Munich, (DE)
- Jamie Liversedge, landscape architect, London, (UK)
- Professor Vera Tangari, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (asked), (Brazil)
- Dr. Andreas Christou, Forester-Environmentalist, Department of Forests, Head of Forest Management Office (asked), (CY)
- Dr. Kyriakos Themistocleous, architect, Board Member of Technical Chamber of Cyprus (asked), (CY)

13. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The projects submitted will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- the degree of connection of the proposed vision to the explored context
- innovation and creativity
- conceptual expression and clarity
- methodological clarity and consistency
- the extent to which an holistic approach has been achieved
- visual communication

14. SCHEDULE AND DEADLINE

	Dates
Registration opening	October 15 th , 2015
Feedback colloquium for registered participants	November 18 th , 2015, at 18 CET
Latest registration date	January 15 th , 2016
Entries received	January 31 st , 2016, at midnight CET
Jury selection	February 5 th -15 th , 2016
Award Ceremony and Exhibition, Paphos, Cyprus	March 16 th -20 th , 2016

15. CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information about the 5th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum Cyprus 2016 and participation at the student competition, please visit the website:

<http://www.landscape-forum.org>

Registration link: https://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=cat_12388&client_id=hfwu

Supplementary Information (electronic access will be provided for registered participants)

Background information

- Landscape elements: geology, biodiversity (Natura 2000 areas), land use patterns, agriculture, socio-economic background, heritage, public transport, planned infrastructure projects
- Topographical map 1:50 000, 1:10 000
- Aerial views scale 1:10 000 and 1:5000 (to be used as base maps)
- Photo-documentation
- Further reports from stakeholders