INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMPETITION

The Akamas Landscape Between Science and Myth

PRESENTATION OF THE FINALISTS

This International Student Competition was part of the 5th Landscape Forum of the LE:NOTRE Institute. This event was hosted by the Neapolis University in Paphos, Cyprus from 16th - 20th of March 2016. The forum focused on the north-western region of Cyprus including the peri-urban landscape of Paphos and the natural areas of the Akamas peninsula.

COMPETITION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
LE:NOTRE Institute: Dr.-Ing. Ellen Fetzer
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

INTERNATIONAL JURY
Professor Teresa Andresen, University of Porto, (PT)
Univ. Ass. Werner Rolf, landscape planner, TU Munich, (DE)
Jamie Liversedge, landscape architect, London, (UK)
Professor Vera Tangari, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, (Brazil)
Dr. Andreas Christou, Forester-Environmentalist, Head of Forest Management Office (CY)
Dr. Kyriakos Themistocleous, architect, Board Member of Technical Chamber of Cyprus (CY)
and the winning team of the 2015 LE:NOTRE Competition: Maria Alexandrescu (master urbanism TU Delft), Ioana Ionescu (master urbanism TU Delft), Claudiu Forgaci (cand. PhD TU Delft)

CONTACT
LE:NOTRE Institute
office@le-notre.org
http://www.le-notre.org
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 was 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 was to conceive a landscape narrative from the sea to the rural hinterland. The proposed transect started at the coastline following the Avakas Gorge to the Pano and Kato Arodes Villages, situated at 500 m above sea level. Participating students were asked to explore the natural, cultural and socio-economic layers of this landscape, as well as its spatial and aesthetic values.

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

Registered teams and/or individuals: 164 teams registered from 37 countries
Submissions received: 24, from 13 countries

FINALISTS

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<th>ID</th>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>University</th>
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<tr>
<td>084</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>University College Ghent, Belgium</td>
<td>Niels de Courvreur, Tobias van der Elst, Joren Jodts, Maarten Dox</td>
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<td>015</td>
<td>2nd (1)</td>
<td>National School of Higher studies in Nature and Landscape Architecture-Blois, France, and Harvard Graduate School of Design, USA</td>
<td>Philippe Allignet, Sophia Geller</td>
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<td>056</td>
<td>2nd (2)</td>
<td>Sapienţa Hungarian University of Transylvania, Romania</td>
<td>Patka Zsuzsa-Kincső, Lorant Kovacs, Botond Szabo, Emőke Gereb, Julia Nagy</td>
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<td>083</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>University College Ghent, Belgium</td>
<td>Guillaume Vanden Avenne, Thomas Dreesen, Gus van Hoeck, Robin Vangheluwe</td>
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Honorable mention

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<tr>
<td>038</td>
<td>Huazhong Agriculture University, China</td>
<td>Luo Huan, Xu Xiaoyu, Wang Lun, Chen Wenshuang, Li Yuan, Guo Yue, Li Jiajia</td>
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<tr>
<td>085</td>
<td>University College Ghent, Belgium</td>
<td>Fleur Vergote, Nona de Baerdedameccker, Rinus Vanderlinden, Pepijn Verbeeck</td>
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1st Prize: DNA 4 AKAMAS

Authors: Niels de Courvreur, Maarten Dox, Tobias van der Elst, Joren Jodts
University: University College Ghent, Belgium

Project description
DNA 4 AKAMAS is a method of natural development that combines astronomy, archaeology, agriculture and architecture in the overall concept of a ‘Geopark’. The landscape consists of ancient history on geological, architectural and agricultural levels. The vision of the project is to connect these elements with guides routes throughout the landscape. These routs combine the science and the myths of the area.

These subjects and the planned developments form an addition to the already existing Akamas 2017 vision. They will give a future value to the area which fits in the line of historic events that made this place as it is today. DNA 4 AKAMAS focuses on the inhabitants in order to support the locals. The main goal is to enhance the touristic activities in the villages and their surroundings. Tourists are seen as guests on the site, not as main users. This vision recognizes the existing qualities. In order to preserve the genius loco ‘do more with less’ will be reinforced through subtle interventions.

Jury Comment
This is a well-presented and balanced project with a strong conceptual vision. It has a very holistic approach, with the Geopark as a long term target, taking into account sustainable regional development. The project really intends to integrate ecology, culture and preservation issues, dealing with the diversity as presented by Greek and Turkish values. The project shows a very good understanding of the local history, it articulates the three scales very well and uses strong precedents and concepts in building up the design.
2nd Prize (1): Restructuring with cooperative economy

Authors: Philippe Allignet and Sophia Geller
Universities: National School of Higher studies in Nature and Landscape Architecture- Blois, France and Harvard Graduate School of Design, USA

Project description

The territory stretching from Pano and Kato Arodes to the sea spans a vast collection of valuable landscape typologies. But the village itself is shrinking, fields lay abandoned, and deforestation, erosion and desertification abound. Our vision plans to address this decline through a program of revitalization, harnessing the area’s rich patrimonial history to foster a strong and unified community that surpasses town divides in order to reaffirm the strength of the rural Cypriot mainstay.

Our primary move involves reforestation and a revised system of cooperative agriculture. Tree root networks along reforested slopes will retain groundwater and stabilize soils. A terraced, organic agricultural system of crop rotation, orchard plantations, and extensive grazing will insure a varied and sensitive use of the land, promoting high nutrient input and restoring soil quality. Coop farms will be established so that farmers with different knowledge sets can pool resources and rotate land use. This stimulated agricultural activity will converge at the center of the community: our urban development scheme employs phased growth towards the center of Pano and Kato Arodes, joining these historically divided Greek and Turkish communities and meeting in the middle at a new public plaza housing a community kitchen, laboratory and marketplace for the production of local goods.
2nd Prize (2):  

**Revitalization of the Arodes Region**

**Authors:** Patka Zsuzsa-Kincső, Lorant Kovacs, Botond Szabo, Emőke Gereb, Julia Nagy  
**Universities:** Sapiența Hungarian University of Transylvania, Romania

**Project description**

The planning area's functions have been analyzed, reconsidered and redistributed to create a self-sustaining and tourist friendly region. Four main components have been defined by function: the seaside, the gorges area, the agricultural area and the two villages area. The first two focuses mainly on tourism as they are protected by the Natura 2000 program.

The third area serves the inhabitants in the form of a proposal for reintegration of agriculture into the local people's life. It is an initiative for the locals to consider agriculture as a possibility which can be put to value at the fourth scene, the villages. The villages have been connected by a park, presenting the protected local flora. It also is the site of interactive presentation of traditional arts and crafts offering a possibility for the visitors to take part in the making process, enjoy and buy the products.

The park connects the villages to the Astro park, that models the presently known oldest astronomy device and calculator, the Greek Antikythera mechanism. Ecologically, the region has been treated as one body. By doing so, desertification can be averted and more so even reversed, by implementing a system called holistic management, developed by Allan Savory, requiring minimum intervention. The region can be approached by boat that docks on the southern part and can be crossed by foot, on horse, by bob sled or via zip-lines. Monuments and points of interest around the village can be visited with guided tours, or by following the direction tables.
3rd Prize: **The Blue Thread**

**Authors:** Guillaume Vanden Avenne, Thomas Dreesen, Gus van Hoeck, Robin Vangheluwe  
**Universities:** University College Ghent, Belgium

**Project description**

Water forms the sustainable vision for the agricultural landscape near Arodes. The concept, The Blue Threat, is based on creating a platform for the scarcity of water needed for productive agricultural. Four pilot projects are selected to apply on the cultivated fields to regenerate in economic revival. Each system offers a solution to decrease the water shortage for local and agricultural use.

The central promenade forms the The Blue Threat that connects the coastal area with the two villages of Arodes following the relief of the natural hydro-system. This pathway shapes the landmark that provides passage to a network of scenic routes. They align the agricultural and natural landscape as well as the cultural heritages in the area. Pilot projects forms the foundation to increase the amount of freshwater storage needed for agricultural irrigation. Reducing the water scarcity will regenerate in higher crop yield and freshwater for the cattle. This will create opportunities for the local inhabitants to invest in touristic exploit in the area. Agrotourism provides the right platform for Arodes with initiatives such as creating accommodations for the rural experience of the countryside. In this way there will spontaneously develop a Bottom-up platform for sustainable tourism.

The astropark forms the portal, connecting the two villages with the scenic area following the central the blue thread. The park also aligns Pano and Kato Arodes following the existing pathway. The design of the astropark is incorporated in the natural landscape following the existing terracing relief.
Honorable Mention: Two Leaves

Authors: Luo Huan, Xu Xiaoyu, Wang Lun, Chen Wenshuang, Li Yuan, Guo Yue, Li Jiajia
Universities: Huazhong Agriculture University, China

Project description

“Two leaves” created by nature and human - we think this is a typically phenomenon of harmony. “Two Leaves” in this strategy builds on a landscape narrative from the sea to the rural hinterland. It aims to enhance and integrate sustainable tourism, landscape scenery and cultural heritage.

Earth is presented as a kind of texture by runoff and contours. Huge space spirit dominates every inch of land from the sea to the village. Mediterranean climate and geological movement created a unique temperament and characteristics of this site, there is no need to change a lot, just respect the process. Agriculture will become a landscape, which can stimulate tourism. Villagers and visitors will have a harmonious relationship, while improving the village industry. In the area, framework like a pearl necklace, connecting every heritage, scenic and economic elements. And, the component of the strategy connects is a sustainable traffic system. The system capable to adjust to the particularities of each functional zone and scenic spot and connect it to its wider landscape. The system contains several means of transportation which can increase landscape experience by modal shift.

When it comes to the village we think the two villages, Kato and Pano Arodes, must become an integral whole, so we design a park between two villages to avoid the disorderly development. A special tourist route is planned to offer more interesting experience in villages. The detail design for an Astro park is inspired by the ocean and stars. In consideration of terrain and environment, we minimize the damage, combine mill, grass and stones, which already exist, to form a new landscape. These will become a landmark by turning space into land art. The park contains a variety of platforms, surrounded by local flowers, which could satisfy different needs of visitors.
Honorable Mention: **Macro-Meso-Micro**

**Authors:** Fleur Vergote, Nona de Baerdemaeker, Rinus Vanderlinden, Pepijn Verbeeck  
**Universities:** University College Ghent, Belgium

**Project description**

The first part of the project is about landscape design on the large scale. We start the story with a concept about mobility. We found it necessary to exceed the area of the transect that was given. Additional on this we produced four concepts about the landscape itself.

**Mobility:** The main road has a clear north-south connection. While other connections from sea to main road have an east-west connection. We used this principle for the first concept. To remove the north-south connection by the sea for cars the biggest stream of tourist and recreant use the main road. This way the nature of the Pegeia forest and other Natura 2000 area’s experience reduced pressure of entry. Short supply chain: The project has a lot of potential for agriculture, tourism, nature and energy. We want a sustainable land-use, which does not exceed the carrying capacity of the area, and uses local participation. With local people who stand near the tourist, trough short supply chain. Land-use and maintenance: The project is simplified in this concept and divided into categories with a clear east-west structure. With an extra focus on the area of coppice & grazing. Green valleys: The valley is the connecting structure between the various sub-areas. By planting new indigenous trees and bushes along the stream structures, the valley becomes visible in the landscape. Fauna and flora can use it for migration.

**Constellation astropark:** The astropark itself is not constructed on one place but inspired by “Point by point” design: these individual places form an imaginary constellation on the ground. The astropark is intertwined on three scales. On the macro-scale it forms a constellation with three different routes (one short, one medium and allot of long routes). The meso-scale has an educational value upon how to work with the landscape. The micro scale is about the astropark itself, but with a more extended view on attracting a more diverse public and not only professional astronomers.