Upgrading Munich’s North – Inclusive visions for a fragmented landscape

The third LE:NOTRE Institute student competition asked for integrated approaches to the urban and peri-urban landscape of Munich’s North under the overall topic ‘inclusive landscapes’. 29 groups from 10 countries elaborated ideas at various scales for a landscape corridor between Freising and Dachau. Eight international teams were honoured at the award ceremony on May 19, 2017, as part of the 6th LE:NOTRE Institute Landscape Forum held in Freising from May 16-20. The first prize was issued to a mixed team from HSWT Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, Germany, and La Sapienza University Rome, Italy. The competition was supported by Bavarian Branch of the German Professional Association of Landscape Architects (BDLA Bavaria) and Munich Airport.

The LE:NOTRE International Student Competition supports integrated and holistic (“inclusive”) approaches to the urban and peri-urban landscape. The role of the urban periphery within a city’s overall dynamic needs to be rethought. The periphery should recover its essence and identity and become reconnected to the city’s spatial, social and cultural profile. The title and general approach of both the forum and the competition was **Inclusive Landscapes**. This concept is based on the following hypotheses: Inclusive Landscapes are accessible for everyone, offering space for collaborative, socially inclusive processes, participation and interaction for all people, thus contributing to equity and environmental justice. For planners and designers **Inclusive Landscapes** incorporate the knowledge and needs of everyone, balance interests of different stakeholders and in particular consider those groups that have difficulties in accessing information and articulating their interests. The concept of **Inclusive Landscapes** can be applied to any kind of landscape – such as urban, rural, tourism, or heritage landscapes.

The competition was organized in advance to the Sixth LE:NOTRE Institute Landscape Forum which took place from May 16 -20, 2017, hosted by the Chair for Strategic Landscape Planning and Management of TU Munich and the Faculty of Landscape Architecture of Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences. The competition focused on the corridor between the city of Dachau in the West and Munich Airport in the East. This corridor along the historic canal (Dachau-Schleißheimer-Kanal) and the motorway/autobahn A 92 form a substantial part of Munich’s northern city edge.

The LE:NOTRE Institute organises 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.
Participants were asked to submit two posters, one for the entire corridor at 1:25,000 and a spatial concept for one of the three detailing areas at 1:2,500. The detailing areas were the following: Munich airport and its northern fringe, the former Olympic regatta course between Dachau and Schleissheim and the eastern city edge of the city of Dachau. 29 teams form 10 different countries submitted a proposal. Thanks to the landscape forum sponsors prizes of 4.500 Euro in total could be issued to the student teams.

The competition jury was composed of local and international experts in the fields of landscape architecture, landscape planning, urban design and architecture. International jury members were Cristina Enache, Ion Mincu University for Architecture and Urbanism, Bucharest, Juanjo Galan, Aalto University Helsinki, Gertjan Jobse, Dutch Association of Landscape Architects and IFLA-Europe, Ana Luengo, IFLA-Europe, Lucy Natrajan, the Bartlett School of Planning, London. Local experts were Tilman Latz, BDLA, Heiko Huppenberger, Urban Planning Unit of the City of Freising, Ariane Jungwirth and Nadja Krippans-Noisser, Urban Planning Unit of the City of Dachau, and Matthias Lampert, Open Space Planning Department of the City of Munich. The jury conducted a blind review in March 2017 and the final decision was made during an online jury colloquium on March 30, 2017. Four prizes have been issued and four projects received an honorable mention. The projects are presented in the following.

Fig. 1: Competition corridor (source: Geodaten Bayerische Vermessungsverwaltung, 2016)
First Prize: Inclusive Landscape Munich North

Authors:
Ziou He, Eliza Salman, Giada di Sante, Evgeniia Telnykh

University: Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences and La Sapienza University

Project summary

This project aims to create an inclusive landscape, offering solutions for both nature and people through restoring the peatlands and strengthening the green connections, improving accessibility for people with different capabilities and providing a variety of functions and activities covering different types of people. To achieve these aims the team has used an inclusive design method projected in a looping processes of exploring the needs and potentials of the landscape, the people and generating working approaches, then creating ideas and solutions, evaluating and testing the design.

To make the landscape more accessible for people, different activities have been woven into the corridor with varied intensities, making sure to provide easy access for various people from different backgrounds, ages and capabilities represented by five avatars.

The project is a good proposal focused on activities and users. The landscape is understood mainly as a recreational service. The proposed design process and the incorporation of the users in it are both excellent inputs.
Second Prize: Green Corridors

Authors:

Marusa Čiča, Lara Rus, Nika Pirc, Ziva Zupancic

University: University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Project summary

The project is based on a dynamic and creative concept, aiming at the attractiveness and spatial coherence of the study area level. It is a well-structured, argued project, linked to the context and based on versatility and purity of the detail. Different target groups are identified and addressed. The design focuses on sustainable traffic systems, cultural place-making and circular trails to create new connections for differentiated user groups.

The main concept of project is to connect urban space with nature. The area is improved with upgrades of the green system, cycling lanes, channel system and public transport.. The entire cycling and channel network is used for recreation and organizing the space between rivers. A new main channel with cycling lane from Dachau to Freising has cycling stops and stops for renting boats. Both connections are creating strong vegetative line, which is a part of a wider green system that is connecting urban and rural space.
Third Prize: The Nature of Art

Authors:

Anna Benkö, Nora Csik, Edmont Istvan Kelemen, Johannes Martin, Lili Nagy, Ivett Szezerces, Gabriella Sogor, Julia Thurnay

Universities: Szent István University Budapest with Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences

Project summary

The concept is based on the values coming together on the site through the idea of the artist colony Dachauer Moos. Starting to look through the eyes of painters, we can get a sense of the changes in the landscape. The plan includes a themed hiking track through the land, engaging painting and its accompanying infrastructure, changes in land use and revitalized natural areas. The track sections between the checkpoints are further methodized by the characteristics of the surrounding landscape.

The concept takes advantage of the rich natural values and the meaning behind the man-formed cultural landscape. The thematic plans and the whole panel one are excellent and the proposal for the focus area is very promising. The project is based on a cultural approach, in which the landscape is a cultural act. The solution proposed a series of frames – landscape frames – like paintings. The way of perception becomes the clue of the general composition. The project aims a general unity of the landscape, a unity generated by the diversity of pictorial frames.
Fourth Prize: Pick a Pixel

Authors:
Reingard Aichinger, Azra Kunic, Fernando Montano, Ani Nalbandian

University: Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University

Project summary

The main problems identified in the landscape of the northern urban fringe of Munich are the drained peatland with highly intensive agriculture, fragmented landscape with different infrastructures and settlements which are continually growing within the increasing urban sprawl. According to this, the four main goals to improve this zone are, first - to connect the different parts of this area including Munich; second - to bring back the ecological qualities of this landscape by restoring the peatland; third - to create strategies in order to get social and economic benefits from this change and finally - to encourage the integration of the society in this process by a participatory method in which all the users and stakeholders will be involved. This leads to a more inclusive landscape, where the spatial management and the decision-making happen in a transparent consensus. The abstract idea of pixels shows how the landscape could look like when people shape it under four main layers which are: the interactive, the working, the resting and the urban landscapes.
Honorable Mention

A strategic approach: demographic change and brownfield recycling

Author: Jamie Crean

University: University College Dublin

Project summary

Due to the population growth projected throughout Bavaria and Munich especially, the strategic proposal is applied to deal with this demographic increase sustainably while incorporating the heritage that already exists within the farming culture in the region. The idea is to manipulate the farm holdings within the region to act as a sustainable basis for urban development. The farms could become the Green Infrastructural hubs that act as the basis for new settlements to evolve around them. The building typologies of the housing and farm buildings will become blueprints for the new development style, to keep a vernacular style within the region. The settlements will form around the farm. This is opposite to urban sprawl, we empty the farm, and we then use this as the green infrastructure hub, allowing the settlements develops outwards from here. These settlements will incorporate green infrastructural sustainable methods as cycling will be encouraged by linking villages to bigger towns being a lot more accessible than driving.
Honorable Mention: Innovative preservation

Authors: Nicolas Lernouldt, Gerben Hartgerink, Josselin Snoek, Rosalunde Keip, Thijmen van Loon, Ahmed Esmail

University: Wageningen University

Project summary

The team was intrigued by the painting of Georg Jauss ‘Abendstimmung im Dachauer Moos’, which represents the traditional cultural landscape of Munich north. This landscape is worth preserving because it tells stories, a biography where people can relate to, which can make the area meaningful and beloved. However, this landscape appears to be crumbled by intensive agriculture and industrial parks. How can the future landscape of Munich North be an inclusive, meaningful and beloved landscape? What role can sustainable food production play in this future landscape?

An inclusive landscape is meaningful and beloved for both inhabitant and guest, and triggers participation and collaboration among them. The innovation of high tech agriculture creates space for the traditional cultural landscape, which bears the area’s biography. Redefining the landscape’s value, by naming the entities and identities, and by creating an inclusive local food chain, creates a sense of meaning and love. We define the moor, forest and heath as the determinant traditional cultural landscape, each divided by a gradation of recovery. This gradation moves between nature reserves, agricultural nature management and nature inclusive agriculture. The local food chain ‘Munich Food’, consisting of Food Hubs and Multifunctional Farms, creates a strong sense of inclusiveness, providing the area of sustainable food.
Honorable Mention: Go with the flow

Authors: Vid Bogovic, Vlasta Damjawovic, Lara Gligic, Andraz Hudoklin, Sasa Kolman

University: University of Ljubljana

Project summary

The area of the northern Munich with all its potentials is today unfortunately in lack of holistic vision, all-embracing connectivity under the main topic ‘inclusive landscape’. The vision is to reestablish a landscape identity of the area by redefining recognizable landscape entities and giving them new functions and meanings considering diverse stakeholder’s interests. The authors see it as an urban-rural continuum, inclusive peri-urban landscape, special and distinguished from the south, with reestablished longitudinal forest area which once there already was and is physically, visually and mentally reconnecting the area between the rivers. Linear gaps in the forest change landscape perception by framing scenic views as well as preserved identified potentially recognizable scenic areas. The transversal connection goes smooth from the stiff residential area to the soft open field recreation and sport area through the urban juncture consisting of the city edge redevelopment, revitalized industrial area and forested buffer zone.
Honorable Mention: Forgotten Landscapes

**Authors:** Julia Frost, Ryan Kiesler, Megan Little, Derek Rayle

**University:** University of Oregon, US

**Project summary**

Extraction sustains our society. We rely on energy to power the technology in our lives but are disconnected from the landscapes that must be exploited to yield that energy. We dig and blast materials to construct and repair the physical infrastructure of our towns and cities, but rarely pause to think about the origin of the gravel and concrete that comprise the built environment. A largely overlooked feature of the existing peri-urban landscape is the scarring of highway construction. Extraction is a necessary process for the implementation of roads. Extraction in many circumstances is a distant phenomenon. These small, often single-use quarries remain adjacent to the highway, though time has contributed to their evolution. These former byproducts of industrial processes have since transformed into small lakes that are used for both recreational and ecological purposes. They have their own identities that conceal the interconnectivity of their creation. Observing these trends, we see these lakes as an opportunity to increase connection to natural amenities and historical context. By periodic, minimal interventions, we aim to continue the project that began in the 1930s. The goal is to increase the ecological, social, and transportation efficiency of the existing infrastructure for future generations.
6th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum 2017
16th - 20th of May, 2017 – Freising-Weihenstephan, Germany

Hosted by: Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences, Department of Landscape Architecture and Technical University of Munich, Chair for Strategic Landscape Planning and Management

Competition Online Exhibition
A full documentation is available under this link:


Competition organizing committee
Coordination of participants, jury working process and protocol:

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

Preparation of competition brief, materials and jury formation:

HSWT Weihenstephan-Triesdorf
Professor Ingrid Schegk
Dipl.-Ing. (FH) Stefanie Gruber

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.

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