

LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum: Bucharest 2015

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMPETITION **(Re)Discovering the Emerald Necklace:** **Colentina River, Bucharest, Romania**



1. GENERAL PRESENTATION

The International Student Competition is part of the 4th Landscape Forum of the LE:NOTRE Institute. This event will be hosted by the University of Agronomical Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest (USAMVB) and "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism Bucharest (UAUIM), in Bucharest - 21-25 April, 2015. The competition is 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 Le:Notre Landscape Forum has worked on four focus areas so far, applied on relevant urban or peri-urban sites. For the 4th Landscape Forum in Bucharest the overall focus will be on the chain of lakes along the river Colentina. This semi-natural area is a huge potential for the sustainable development of Romania's capital city. Paradoxically, the river has been largely ignored and misused. This important but neglected area represents one of the most relevant sites in Bucharest. It illustrates social and economic dynamics related to the four focus areas:

- *Urban Growth and peri-urban sprawl*
- *Sustainable tourism and recreation*
- *Heritage and identity*
- *Rural fringe*

2. 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
- HfWU Nürtingen-Geislingen (DE): Dr.-Ing. Ellen Fetzer

3. AIM OF THE COMPETITION

The LE:NOTRE International Student Competition aims to support integrated and holistic approaches to the urban and peri-urban landscape through multidisciplinary student teams elaborating planning and design proposals at various scales.

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. Participating students will explore the peripheral landscapes, question the complex processes in this specific landscape type, in relation to the city's context and dynamics.

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

- Sustainable visions for the relation of built tissue, open space and landscape elements
- Sustainable visions for the relation city-periphery and sprawl territories
- Proposals for improved connectivity at different scale levels
- Enhancement of ecological functions and ecosystem services
- Introduction of green infrastructure elements based on a conceptual framework
- Sustainable traffic proposals
- Proposals for the sustainable development of tourism and leisure areas
- Visions for a better dialog between cultural heritage and the dynamics of urban identities

Focus areas:

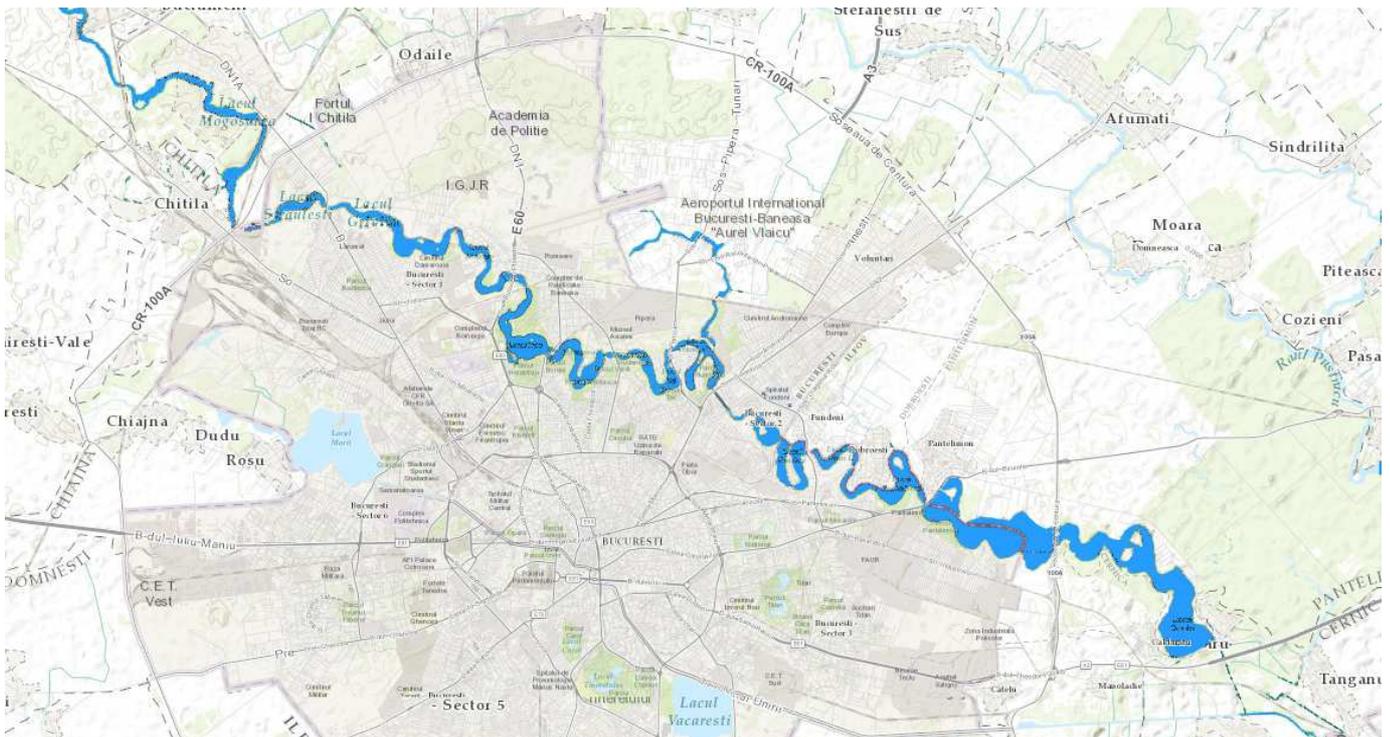
Taking the aspects mentioned above into account, the competition participants are invited to develop their concepts around one of the following four themes. These topics are identical to the general structure of the landscape forum:

- **Urban growth and peri-urban sprawl:** *the landscape of contemporary urban peripheries*
- **Sustainable tourism and leisure:** *visions for landscape regeneration through tourism development*
- **Heritage and identity:** *permanence, patrimony, specificity and dynamics of landscape identities*
- **Rural fringe and productive landscapes:** *multifunctional rural landscapes and the economic dimension*

4. THEME: COLENTINA RIVER CHAIN: A SUSTAINABLE PERIPHERAL LANDSCAPE

The major challenge of this competition is the scale: 25 kilometres of a complex urban periphery connected by a chain of natural and artificial lakes. It is a fascinating territory marked by strong contrasts at various levels: functional, ecological, socio-cultural, ethical, aesthetic, heritage, economic and many more. Consisting of abandoned, disparate fragments of urban voids, of interstitial spaces, of strips of porous texture, or of tough tissue, of glittering new implants co-existing with almost decaying pieces of tissue, these territories are morphologically an amazing hybrid, a mix of strident language which requires a deciphering for a proper readability.

Many of these contrasts specific to peripheral landscapes generate conflicts. This becomes evident not only in the spatial plan, but also in the social realities. The competition aims to find innovative solutions to mediate these conflicts, in order to settle the development of this landscape in the „riverbed” of sustainability.



Colentina River runs through the entire northern periphery of Bucharest. During the first half of the 20th century the river has been transformed into a chain of interconnected lakes with strong water regulation. Map source: World Topo Map, ArcGIS service directory



Four lakes for conceptual detailing are proposed: Grivița, Străulești, Floreasca, Pantelimon. Participants are free to choose one of them for visualising their ideas in the local context. Details for each area are given in the detailed competition materials (available for registered participants). Map source: World Topo Map, ArcGIS service directory

5. SUBMISSION FORMAT

Participants are asked to submit two posters covering the following contents:

A. Landscape Concept Colentina

This poster will cover the entire area of Colentina in relation to the city of Bucharest. The working and presentation scale is 1:25:000. Aspects to be covered: landscape elements and their enhancement, functional zones including natural areas and open space typologies, connectivity, sustainable traffic. The overall 1:25 000 plan can ideally be combined with conceptual diagrams (i.e. spatial and functional layers, bird eye view sketches, historical analysis). Keep explanatory notes short and concise. The format can be either one poster overlenght (the area covers approx. 1.5 m in this scale) or be divided into two posters (A1) in landscape format.

B. Spatial Concept

The second poster will show a spatial concept for one of the three detailing areas (Grivița, Străulești, Floreasca or Pantelimon). Working and presentation scale is 1:5 000. Aspects to be covered: spatial composition with built elements and open space typologies in scale 1: 5000. Additional information on functionality, traffic and connectivity can be provided with conceptual diagrams. Visualisations (hand drawn or computer-based) and explanatory notes on two A1 posters (landscape format).

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: http://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=cat_9724&client_id=hfwu&lang=en

6. PARTICIPANTS

The competition is open to all students and recent graduates of 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. Broad 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.

7. QUESTIONA AND ANSWERS

A colloquium in the form of a web conference will be held on Wednesday, 26th of November, at 18 pm CET. Registered participants will be able to submit questions for the colloquium in advance.

8. 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.

9. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Poster size and format

The submitted project must comprise four (4) A1 posters (841mmx594mm, landscape format only). The landscape concept can also be shown in one long plan combining the size of two A1 posters. 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.

10. REQUIRED GRAPHICS

- **A scheme showing the envisioned relationship of the Colentina River territory with the wider urban landscape of Bucharest**
- **A plan showing in a synthesis the analysis of the present landscape situation and the potential of intervention (1:25 000)**
- **Representation of the proposed concept and vision of intervention**
- **A plan indicating the area selected for detailing (one from the four areas proposed: lakes Grivița, Străulești, Floreasca or Pantelimon)**
- **Spatial concept of the area selected for detailing (1:5000)**
- **Detailing according to individual decisions**
- **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.

11. 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.

12. 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 4th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum Bucharest 2015 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 4th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum Bucharest 2015, 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.

13. SUBMISSION FORMAT

The submitted folder shall include:

- 4 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.

14. JURY MEMBERS

- Professor Fritz Auweck, landscape planner, Munich (DE), IFLA-Europe
- Professor Henri Bava, University of Karlsruhe (DE), asked
- Cerasella Crăciun, Romanian Professional Association of Urban Planners (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)
- Gheorghe Patrascu, chief architect of the city of Bucharest (RO)
- Ioana Streza, landscape architect, Romanian Association of Landscape Architecture (RO)

15. 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

16. SCHEDULE AND DEADLINE

	Dates
Registration opening	October 20 th , 2014
Feedback colloquium for registered participants	November 26 th , 2014, at 18 PM
Latest registration date	February 15 th , 2015
Entries received	March 8 th , 2015, at midnight CET
Jury selection	March 19 th -20 th , 2015
Award Ceremony and Exhibition, UAUIM, Bucharest	April 24 th -25 th , 2015

17. CONTACT INFORMATION:

For more information about the 4th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum Bucharest 2015 and participation at the student competition, please visit the website:

www.le-notre.org

Registration link: http://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=cat_9724&client_id=hfwu&lang=en

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

Background information (in text form):

- Various reports from different sectors
- History of the Colentina lakes
- Additional information on the 4 focuses themes

Maps:

- Historical Maps
- Topographical map 1:25 000 (situation approx. in 1975)
- Aerial views scale 1:25 000 and 1:5000 for each detailing area
- detailed plans for the four lakes proposed for detailing