



BETA 2016 competition – jury report

GRADUATION PROJECTS, ARCHITECTURAL VISIONS and ARCHITECTURAL TEXT categories

Ivan Kucina, Ștefan Ghenciulescu, Zsolt Vasáros

Total number of submitted works (from all 3 categories): **72**

Disqualified works: **6**

Total number of works entering the competition: **66**

Distribution of the works entering the competition, on categories:

GRADUATION PROJECTS: **32**

ARCHITECTURAL VISIONS: **23**

ARCHITECTURAL TEXT: **17**

Distribution of the works after the preselection, on categories:

GRADUATION PROJECTS: **21**

ARCHITECTURAL VISIONS: **10**

! for the ARCHITECTURAL TEXT category there has been no preliminary evaluation

GRADUATION PROJECTS category

There has been a great interest in this competition category and the jury would like to thank the many entrants and acknowledge the efforts the entries represent. 32 entries were submitted, of which 21 were accepted for the second stage of the competition.

We have examined very different projects – including good, diverse, sensible and also unexpected proposals. It is generally the jury's impression that the topic of the projects ranges widely in scale and asks often fundamental questions about urban, environmental and heritage contexts on the one hand, and on the other, about functional rethinking of existing structures.

Not the least the many proposals are of great value to us, as they allow us to see the diversity of the graduation projects of the participating countries. The selected 21 entries we discussed, helped the jury clarify the criteria raised during the judging process and have engaged the jury in many exciting discussions about the chosen sites, function, sensibility, architecture and connecting spaces or urban context, as well as about what a diploma project actually is. The field of winners remained open for the last judging session, in the final assessment it became clear who the winners would be.

In full and complete agreement, the jury was able to identify one winner (LLL11) and one mention (AOX90), on the grounds that these proposals were able to solve the chosen site and program at a highly professional level.

Award

LLL11

Ecological research center in the Danube Delta

Main author: Lucian Tofan

Tutor: Dorin Stefan Adam

The design proposal presents a sensible location in a natural context. The conceptual approach embodies the viewpoints on ecology and local communities. The intervention helps create a clear relation to the site as a natural landscape and local village, the materiality and the construction roots in the local context, how it is described by the author. This diploma work was an unexpected surprise to the jury and belongs among the best entries in the whole competition.



Mention

AOX90

Microbrewery in forgotten ruins

Author: Olimpia Onci

Tutor: Bogdan Demetrescu

Collaborator: Cornel Farcaș

Collaborators: Arh. Bogdan Demetrescu, Ing. Struct. Cornel Farcaș

The solution presents a harmonic layout of the site and the suggested new function. The concept is based on the visual harmony between the old 'useless' ruin and the new structure above them. The design distinguishes itself by creating a good relationship between the fragile heritage and its poor perception and between new vertical structures. The new building compound has an unobtrusive identity and is integrated into its surroundings through a confident intervention.

ARCHITECTURAL VISIONS category

In the jury's opinion, visions are something quite different from good unrealized projects. On the contrary, they are not meant to be built as such. Visions address important matters and not (just) a brief, they have to bring something that has not been seen before, to express great ideas, to trigger debates and creativity. And, very importantly, an architectural vision should overcome architecture and become relevant for a general social and cultural context.

Award

BST31

Border

Author: Branko Stanojević

Co-author: Milena Strahinović

Collaborators: Milenko Stanojević, Ljubinka Stanojević

"BORDER" is a project for an architectural installation that will visually break the border bridge over the Drina river, at the Sepak border crossing between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The broken bridge speaks about conflict and tragic memories, but, maybe because of its manifest absurdity, it automatically triggers our will to close the gap. A vision about peace and coming back together – and not just in the Balkans.

Special award

REP03

Repercussion: Visions about our future

Authors: Anna Petrovicz, Zsuzsanna Peter

The project was presented as a paper in the „Architectural Texts” Category. The authors are developing three scenarios of post-apocalyptic urban redevelopment and build-up models of the ways in which the city could adapt to the worst circumstances. The jury strongly appreciated the quality of the research and the power of the models, but felt that the work was not submitted in the right category. We decided to consider the project within the „Architecture Visions” category and to award it a special prize.

ARCHITECTURAL TEXT category

Competition for Architectural Texts attracted 17 participants who offered a range of textual forms - including academic papers, reports, essays, case studies, analytical views, critics, statements and personal experiences. Despite formal diversity, their thoughts that were addressing the issues of contemporary cities were more unified - all these texts tried to highlight our weakness in understanding today's urban complexity that is constantly restructuring following the dynamic of political, economical and social forces. They also tried to offer alternatives to our habitual approach - some of these alternatives were taking us back to essential urban phenomena, some were looking for another way of

perceiving the city,, some were reestablishing dystopian viewpoint, and some were elaborating opportunities.

Jury had a difficult task to evaluate all these different forms and alternatives. Though e recognized high level of responsibility toward the subject in each text, we would like to point out our serious remark which is related to exclusion of citizens in the most of contributed observation of the urban complexity.

Nevertheless, having in mind dominating overall quality of written contributions, exposed curiosity of the authors and their objectives, importance of research fields, references that are used in research, structure of the outcome, fluidity of the words and trustfulness to the thoughts, the jury decided unanimously to nominate the following works:

BAT92

DRIVE IN CITY (MEETING PEOPLE IS EASY)

Author: Cristian Blidariu

Author is perceiving the urban dynamic by watching it through the car windshield. The crossing of two physical motions - one of the everyday urban scenes that are passing by, and another of the observer's viewpoints create higher sensitivity in experiencing contemporary urban dynamic which at the end force the observer to leave his secure distant position and to become participant.

STH96

I'm Looking at the City. The Second Gaze

Author: Florian Stanciu

Author's argumentation follows known philosophical path which empowers subjects to question determinations of Cartesian space with memories. Identity of the perceived object, such as historical city in this case, is not limited by its eternally given status and shape, but by changes which depends on subjective memories employed in perceiving it. Though recognizing that we e all see different things when we watch the same one, author points that these memories are always culturally contextualized. When applied to urban morphology this argumentation offers us limited range of historical patterns that help us to overcome endless diversity.

MIB99

Many is Beautiful

Author: András Cseh

Author elaborates urban diversity as ultimate answer to our search for certainty in contemporary urban chaos. Using Levinas philosophy of Otherness to gather his patchwork of previously written thoughts on different social and spatial attributes of a city, authors manages to elaborate reliable argument about divinity of everyday multiplicity. City should always be the compilation of many others. The conclusion of the text is already given in the title - Many is Beautiful.

Among the three nominees, the jury decided to award with the first prize Andras Cseh for the text Many is Beautiful and with mentions the authors Cristian Blidariu (DRIVE IN CITY. MEETING PEOPLE IS EASY) and Florian Stanciu (I'm Looking at the City. The Second Gaze).

Congratulation to all.

Jury President,
Ivan Kucina

