The competition in Ibbenbüren focuses on two derelict sites in the town centre which are connected by the river Aa and separated by a major road access. While exploring the site, it is essential to take into account the development on different layers, to maintain existing connections to the surroundings and develop new ones and to revitalize an urban space which has been insufficiently used so far. New concepts for the utilisation have to be developed which are suitable for a middle-order centre. The areas are supposed to gain an outstanding meaning as joints and connecting elements within the urban fabric in the future.

CITY STRATEGY
With the participation of the general public, Ibbenbüren Town Council has prepared a town development programme in 2010 which, against a background of climatic and demographic changes, provides a long-term guideline for the town’s futuredevelopment. Attractive town entrances are to be created according to the motto “Ibbenbüren must be more visible!”. The quality of the public sphere and the ecological and recreational functions of the open spaces in the town centre are to be enhanced. The visibility in terms of the perceived image of Ibbenbüren has to be upgraded. The goal is to maintain, to develop and to revitalize the local identity in a contemporary way.
SITE DEFINITION
The sites are characterised by their attractive location on Aasee and along the River Aa and proximity to the town centre. An urban design concept is to be prepared with an attractive mix of uses for the sustainable development of a residential and business zone on Diekwiese and Werthmühlenplatz. Whilst the sites amid natural surroundings are particularly suitable for residential use, recreation areas and the consolidation of natural open areas, commercial uses along the road are conceivable. Special importance must be attached to the design of an entrance to the town. The proposals should allow a long-term phased development and in the same time create a strong identity for the urban space.

NEW MOBILITY
Ibbenbüren’s reputation as a bicycle-friendly town is to be further enhanced. In particular the north-south link between the town centre and the leisure zone at Aasee and the River Aa must be made more attractive. New, attractive forms of accommodation in the town centre should help to reduce the need for mobility.

NEW WAYS OF LIFE
At the housing construction level, alternatives to the single family dwelling are to be sought and new forms of accommodation promoted. Besides a wider range of residential forms for senior citizens, new types of supervised living accommodation and care facilities are to be evolved. A hotel function is conceivable for the site at Diekwiese. For the regeneration of the public sphere a broader diversity of uses must be provided which is linked to the adjacent spaces and particularly to the Aasee with its gastronomic and recreational uses.

NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
In the interests of sustainable urban development, new residential construction should for the main part focus on developed land within the existing urban area. In future a greater variety of uses is to be promoted in order to revitalise the town centre. Ibbenbüren is laureate of the European Energy Award® and makes high demands on planning and building quality in terms of energy consumption, low environmental impact and sustainability.
Aasee