

EUROPAN SUOMI FINLAND

# AN EUROPA

JURY REPORT  
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# 1 EUROPAN 12 – COMPETITION

EUROPAN is a competition directed at young professionals in the fields of architecture and urban design. Competitors are encouraged to form multidisciplinary teams, each team including at least one architect. All team members, whatever their profession, must be under 40 years of age on the closing date for submission of entries. Each competitor or team may enter submissions for several sites, provided that those are in different countries. In each country, a national jury evaluates the entries, selects the winning projects and runners-up, and awards the prizes.

## 1.1 EUROPAN 12 THEME

### ADAPTABLE CITY – INSERTING URBAN RHYTHMS

Definition: adaptability is the quality of a space that can be easily modified in harmony with the changes to which its use is subject or may be subject.

Europe's cities are engaged in a radical transformation: they need urgently to reduce their ecological footprint to help resolve the energy crisis, combat the greenhouse effect and preserve nonrenewable resources. This transformation applies both to their morphology (form) and their metabolism (including all energy expenditure), and is highly dependent on the ways of living they provide. To achieve this, all these changes have to be thought out quickly, and that is why European 12 proposes to explore the question of time with a view to making the city more adaptable.

This entails, for example, providing new ways of sharing collective space and methods of governance. This requires a chronotypical approach, blending the spatial and temporal dimensions and, for example, establishing temporary projects for spaces. This also means developing a sensitive form of urban planning, where different places can be used at different times, and rethinking the quality of the spaces from that perspective. This raises the question of the “hospitality” of urban spaces and their transparency for users of the city. It is also important to think about intensive development projects, to connect them better with the realities of today’s city. It is also about considering the multiple uses the city, and in particular the question of the sharing and recycling of buildings, to avoid excessive consumption of space and thereby to promote a sustainable city by exploiting time in its full range.

## Themes of Sites

### DYNAMIC URBAN PLATFORMS

Revitalising currently unattractive public spaces needs consideration on a broader scale than the immediate site environment. Even if these spaces are sometimes small in scale, they are strategic levers for activation on an urban level. Their impact in terms of identity and image often exceeds their physical limits and calls for a wider transformation of the existing fabric.

Blind spots that have never had adequate use, or places whose initial functions are now obsolete or out of sync with the requirements of the inhabitants, can serve as platforms for activation and appropriation to mobilize the local population or a broader public. The development or redevelopment of these areas can be approached in many ways: in the form of refreshment by multifunctional spaces, with temporary or extendable structures acting as acupuncture, or as a trial balloon to put a site on the map, initiate private co-financing or investment and find new rhythms of intensity.

#### 11 sites

AALBORG (DK), BITTERFELD-WOLFEN (DE), BUDAPEST (HU), DON BENITO (ES), GJILAN (KO), KRISTINEHAMN (SE), MARSEILLE PLAN, D’AOU (FR), SAINT-HERBLAIN (FR), SCHIEDAM (NL), WITTENBERGE (DE)

### HERITAGE OF THE FUTURE

Heritage is generally thought to look back to the past, but conversely it could be said that it should look to the future. Heritage is usually considered to be extraordinary, but is there not a case for thinking about the definition of “ordinary heritage”? Heritage is customarily perceived as an architectural object, but this office will explore ways to “create heritage” in three types of context where it is in principle lacking: the transformation of orphan districts, the conversion of neglected buildings or plots, the redevelopment of abandoned industrial zones or enclaves. It can be hypothesised that the more the city, in both its morphology and its functions, spans, recaptures and expresses the eras and phases of its development, the more it develops its capacity to adapt to change, its potential for urban adaptation and its ability to resist sudden crises. So the question is: does creating heritage mean increasing the capacity to adapt the future city?

#### 8 sites

AMSTETTEN (AT), ASKER (NO), COUVET (CH), HAMMARÖ (SE), KØBENHAVN (DK), NÜRNBERG (DE), REGIONALE 2016 (DE), WARSZAWA (PL)

## FROM MONO-LARGE TO MULTI-MIX

Sites are undergoing two kinds of closely related transformation: the first from a single large entity to a multitude of smaller parts; the other from a mono-functional entity to a mix of functions and uses. Both transformations generate a greater degree of spatial and programmatic complexity, which is an essential quality of genuine urbanity. In these transformations a system composed of smaller, separate and different elements is potentially more adaptable. If one part becomes redundant, it can await change or replacement without too great an impact on an area. If new needs arise, these can be more smoothly absorbed into a differentiated pattern of distribution. A fine urban mix is more adaptable than a large mono-functional cluster.

### 9 sites

GRAZ (AT), GRONINGEN (NL), HANINGE (SE), HEIDELBERG (DE), **HELSINKI (FI)**, KAISERSLAUTERN (DE), MARLY (CH), URRETXU-IRIMO (ES), WIEN – SIEMENSÄCKER (AT)

## ECORHYTHMS

The contemporary city aims to anticipate the future and adapt to its unpredictable changes. Various strategies are currently being developed to achieve a creative resilience, in other words adapt to a changing environment. Working on Ecorhythms means basing urban development on a strong synergy between urban and natural environments in order to break with a principle of opposition that has separated city dwellers from natural realities and gradually undermined those realities. This separation between the city-dweller and nature is not only spatial, but also temporal. Indeed, a landscape is not a pretty image but a living environment governed by cycles (seasons, day and night, tides, climate variations, flora and fauna) forces of growth, fast and slow movement, migration and transhumance, etc. In contrast with modernist town planning, which reinforced a division between urban rhythms and nature, the remit – through the strong presence of landscape on the sites – is to encourage the introduction of operational processes based on the maintenance or regeneration of these Ecorhythms.

### 8 sites

BÆRUM (NO), FOSSES (FR), HÖGANÄS (SE), KAUFBEUREN (DE), KREUZLINGEN / KONSTANZ (CH / DE), MILANO (IT), PARIS – SACLAY (FR), VICHY VAL D'ALLIER (FR)

## IN-BETWEEN TIME

Adaptability is about processes that offer creative possibilities for a project to incorporate uncertainty, lack of funding, the unknown future role of the competition site, or even long-term territorial transformations that affect the site. So how can the “waiting period” before implementing a project be structured in such a way as to facilitate multiple scenarios, to involve numerous stakeholders, ultimately to allow changes to the initial vision? The intelligence of a project can depend on different processes that arise out of the dynamics of the site context. In other words, given time, a project can, so to speak, grow organically out of the site.

### 7 sites

ASSEN (NL), DONAUWÖRTH (DE), **KUOPIO (FI)**, ROUEN (FR), SERAING (BE), VILA VIÇOSA (PT), WIEN – KAGRAN (AT)

## NETWORKED TERRITORIES

Some sites have expanded urban potential because of their connection with a larger entity. This entity might have a concrete physicality, such as a mobility infrastructure, or might be a virtual network of relationships between a number of urban nodes. Although the communities inhabiting or utilizing these sites may be small and apparently isolated, the connection with the network opens up possibilities for a richer urban life, for a new mix of different programmes and a more complex urbanity.

How can we prepare these territories to endure the different scenarios that might emerge on the other elements of the network or in the network itself? Should they be arranged in a way that makes it possible for them to adopt different roles within the network? How can they adapt to the possibility of major changes to the network, even its disappearance, through the definition of their own urban and architectural characteristics?

### 9 sites

ALMADA - PORTO BRANDÃO (PT), ÅS (NO), BARCELONA (ES), CINEY (BE), KALMAR (SE), MANNHEIM (DE), MÜNCHEN (DE), PARIS (FR), VENEZIA (IT)

## 1.2 ORGANIZERS

The organizers in Finland were the city of Kuopio and the city of Helsinki together with European Suomi Finland.

## 1.3 SITES

### Helsinki, Finland

POPULATION	601 690, conurbation 1 379 110
STRATEGIC SITE	41 ha
SITE OF PROJECT	24 ha

HELSINKI is the capital of Finland and the economic centre of the Helsinki capital region, with approximately 1,3 million inhabitants and 738 100 jobs. The city of Helsinki itself has a population of approximately 600 000. Helsinki is a modern European city of culture, which is known for, among other things, its architecture, design and high technology.

The competition area is situated within the urban core, approximately 2,5 kilometres from the city centre of Helsinki. The site is bounded on three sides by busy traffic arteries and in the North begins the extensive Central Park – an urban forest, which is an important permanent recreational area for the city's citizens. South from the site is a sports park built for the 1952 Olympic Games.

The Laakso-Aurora area is a cultural environment considered of national importance and a large part of the present buildings are building-historically valuable. The area has offered social and healthcare services for the citizens of Helsinki for already 100 years. It is the wish of the City that the present operations will be preserved and developed in the area.

In the next few years several buildings will be due for renovation. New innovative and flexible social and healthcare service buildings should be placed throughout the whole area in order to respond to the evolving needs of acute medical care, rehabilitation and psychiatric services as well as new residential and multi-storey residential buildings.

One key asset of the competition area is the Central Park that cuts through the competition area. Additionally, there are several important and even partly conflicting boundary conditions and objectives tied to the cityscape – traffic, green areas and building conservation – to which the city hopes the competitors will take a creative approach and find sustainable and flexible solutions.

## Kuopio, Finland

POPULATION	105 000, conurbation 123 676
STRATEGIC SITE	40 ha
SITE OF PROJECT	9 ha

KUOPIO was founded in 1775 and is today the eighth largest city in Finland, home to approximately 105 000 residents, and an attractive growth centre in Eastern Finland. The city aims to be a lively and international university city with 150 000 residents and a strong sense of community.

The main challenges facing Kuopio are economic diversification and strengthening Kuopio Science Park as a Centre of Expertise. The diverse nature and enjoyable living environment among the lakes and waterways make Kuopio an attractive place in which to live, work and visit.

The city's strong basic elements include its efficient urban structure based on the developing city centre and functioning public transport, as well as its customer-oriented and preventive services.

The competition area of EUROPLAN 12 is situated close to the grid plan of the city in the district of Hatsala, just under a kilometre northwest of the city centre. The Puijo hill and observation tower that dominate the city landscape are situated less than a kilometre to the north of the competition area.

Hatsala campus consists of a school property built in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s that is being made available for other purposes, sports buildings from the 1960s at the end of their life cycle, as well as a railway cutting between these.

The objective of the competition is to defragment the urban structure by possibly building over the railway, to find new ways of using school and sports buildings and grounds that are being vacated, and to enhance the city's image. The activities planned for the area may include different types of residential, service, educational and work facilities connected to the city centre and surrounding recreational services in accordance with the city's strategy.

## 1.4 JURY

### First and second jury meeting

**Hennu Kjisik** Chairman, Architect, Professor of Town Planning, University of Oulu

**Sanna Meriläinen** Architect, European 10 Winner in Järvenpää

**Karolina Keyzer (SE)** Architect, City Architect of Stockholm

**Leif Brodersen (SE)** Architect, Owner of A1 Arkitekter AB, former Head of KTH School of Architecture in Stockholm

**Timo Hintsanen** Architect, Director of City Planning, Turku

**Juha Jääskeläinen** Architect, Building Permission Architect, Vaasa

**Pentti Arajärvi** Professor of Social Law, University of Helsinki, President of the Finnish Association for Mental Health

### First jury meeting

**Jarmo Raveala** Architect, Head of Project Planning, City of Helsinki, European 3 Winner in Quarrata

**Tapio Räsänen** Architect, Planning Director, City of Kuopio

### Substitutes

**Tarja Outila** Architect, Chief of City Planning, Rovaniemi

**Pentti Kareoja** Architect, Professor of Spatial and Furniture Design, Aalto University, European 4 Winner in Vaasa

## 1.5 REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE ENTRIES

European Finland received 66 registrations, 39 for Helsinki and 27 for Kuopio. There was a total of 2 412 registrations for the entire European 12 competition.

The entries were submitted digitally through the european-europe.eu web site for the first time. Helsinki received 29 entries and Kuopio 24, 53 entries in total. The entire European 12 competition received a total of 1 762 entries.





## 2 RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION

### 2.1 THE DECISION OF THE JURY

The jury met twice. The first meeting was held in Helsinki on the 24th September 2013. At this meeting, in accordance with the competition rules, the best and most representative of the entries – the so-called shortlist – were selected (Helsinki 6 entries and Kuopio 5 entries). The second meeting was held in Paris on 10th November 2013.

The jury decided to distribute the prizes, runners-up and special mentions as follows:

#### Helsinki

Winner 12 000 €	PQ966	Asclepeion
Runner-up 6 000 €	YS639	Vesisukkula – Water Shuttle
Special mention	HS397	Institutes Without Boundaries
Special mention	IX338	Confetti
Special mention	MC989	Sensorial Hug

#### Kuopio

Winner 12 000 €	XM159	Savo Nueva
Runner-up 6 000 €	VQ733	Somewhere over the train flow
Special mention	AL516	Cronotopia
Special mention	NF781	Run to the Hills
Special mention	NN147	Meetings & Greetings

The entry UT506 “rOck n rOll” had to be disqualified in compliance with the European competition rule no. 1.4.

## 2.2 OPENING THE ENVELOPES

### Helsinki

Winner 12 000 €

#### **PQ966 - Asclepeion**

**authors:**

Jonna Taegen (FI)

**collaborators:**

Kia Taegen (FI)

Runner-up 6 000 €

#### **YS639 - Vesisukkula - Water Shuttle**

**authors:**

Jarkko Kettunen (FI)

Special mention

#### **HS397 - Institutes Without Boundaries**

**authors:**

Ilaria Ariolfo (IT)

Alessandro Bua (IT)

Andrea Alessio (IT)

Davide Barreri (IT)

Paolo Borghino (IT)

Sarah Becchio (IT)

Andrea Tomasi (IT)

Special mention

#### **IX338 - Confetti**

**authors:**

Ville Hara (FI)

Anu Puustinen (FI)

Sasu Hälikkä (FI)

**collaborators:**

Laura Nenonen (FI)

Martin Genet (FR)

Special mention

#### **MC989 - Sensorial Hug**

**authors:**

Lorena Valero Miñano Lorena (ES)

Jose Ramón Martínez Cañadas (ES)

Enrique Victor Mengual (ES)

# Kuopio

Winner 12 000 €

## **XM159 – Savo Nueva**

### **authors:**

Anssi Lauttia (FI)  
Kuutti Halinen (FI)  
Tuomas Raikamo (FI)

Runner-up 6 000 €

## **VQ733 – Somewhere over the train flow**

### **authors:**

Joaquín Millán Villamuelas (ES)

### **collaborators:**

Patricia Moreno Blasco (ES)  
Lorena Villoria Casado (ES)  
Maria Soledad Antón Vicente (ES)  
Juan Naranjo García (ES)  
Sergio González Gómez (ES)  
Cristina Vicario Del Cojo (ES)

Special mention

## **AL516 – Cronotopia**

### **authors:**

Eleonora Burlando (IT)  
Riccardo Miselli (IT)

### **collaborators:**

Gloria Castellini (IT)  
Guya Di Bella (IT)  
Boris Hamzehain (IT)  
Olmo Martellacci (IT)  
Nicola Masotti (IT)  
Cristina Parodi (IT)  
Enrico Salvo (IT)  
Fabio Stranieri (IT)  
Silvia Torterolo (IT)

Special mention

## **NF781 – Run to the Hills**

### **authors:**

Tuulikki Höglund (FI)  
Miia Mäkinen (FI)  
Jaana Keränen (FI)

Special mention

## **NN147 – Meetings & Greetings**

### **authors:**

Tomi Jaskari (FI)

## 2.3 AFFIRMATION OF THE RESULTS

### First jury meeting

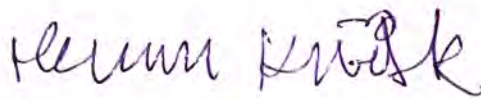


Jarmo Raveala



Tapio Räsänen

### First and second jury meetings



Henna Kjisik  
chairman




Sanna Meriläinen



Karolina Keyzer



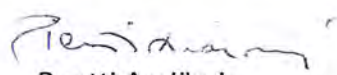
Leif Brodersen




Timo Hintsanen



Juha Jääskeläinen



Pentti Arajärvi



Mari Koskinen  
secretary



## 3 HELSINKI

### 3.1 GENERAL EVALUATION

The position of the site in the heart of Helsinki, comprising two large historical hospital campuses, and the symbolically important entrance to Central Park provided an especially attractive starting point for design but proved to be equally challenging. Combining the different and even conflicting design objectives of the competition brief was a complex task especially when combined with the need to strengthen the identity of the area as a whole.

The role of the hospitals in the city and our conceptions of health care have changed considerably in the last decades. The changes made in the 1960s and '70s to modernize the old hospital buildings have become outdated again and we are forced to invent new strategies to organize public health care. The focus for the city of Helsinki is shifting from large “hot” hospitals to campus-like structures mixing rehabilitation with other housing and service buildings, thus enabling flexibility and adaptability in an environment that is becoming increasingly less predictable.

Among the proposals there was a large amount of different health care building scenarios due to the ambiguousness of the brief. Consequently, the jury did not consider the programmatic details of the presented hospital buildings crucial in the evaluation but instead focused on the possible adaptability of the buildings and their position in the cityscape. Large mono-functional hospital buildings were not considered good future solutions and in most cases also their positioning on the site was questionable. Village-like structures were more interesting architecturally but also raised the question of how realistic they are in terms of effectiveness and economical feasibility. Hybrid healthcare buildings placed close to the present site of the healthcare centre but with a higher degree of permeability and connections were deemed best in terms of accessibility, functionality and urban structure.

Because hospital design is a specialty field requiring extensive background knowledge, there were only very few proposals that could suggest new innovation on a programmatic level, but there were also fresh approaches – especially relating to non-institutional environments of rehabilitation; e.g. in the entry “Institutes without boundaries”. The city municipality has not decided on the exact future of the Laakso and Aurora hospitals but will be able to use the results of this competition to evaluate its strategies against the background of the spatial solutions the competitors have suggested.

The site turned out to be difficult in terms of topography and landscape but the best proposals showed an understanding of the historical design ideas and the marked landscape position of the site with south-facing hillsides with a valley between them. The jury discussed in particular the question of how to build close to the boundaries of Central Park. There was a common understanding of the protected status of the park among citizens and that slowly eating into the park boundaries by building randomly at all edges is not the right way to develop the area. It was not considered a good solution to place central hospital buildings or massive private housing blocks north of Lääkärintie. But the many proposals in which the northern side of Lääkärintie was clearly defined to create an urban street, and with a similarly clearly defined new entrance to the park, were considered successful (e.g. "Asclepeion" and "Rock n roll").

The importance of the Central Park entrance between Laakso and Aurora was understood by the participants but was nevertheless difficult because of the position of the equestrian arena. Creating a built entrance gate or considerably narrowing the entrance with building blocks was not considered a good idea. More appropriate were solutions where the entrance had been functionally extended to Nordenskiöldintie and beyond and strengthened programmatically. Some proposals suggested the removal of the children's traffic park south of Nordenskiöldintie, which would at the same time free space for sport-related activities by the park entrance (e.g. "Confetti"). This idea could be worth developing further.

Many critical questions dealt with connecting the site to the surrounding city and improving links within the site. Best were estimated solutions that created a new hospital main entrance along Urheilutie, with connected underground parking facilities. Equally important was removing the existing walls around the site and emphasizing the importance of a pedestrian entrance to the site from the southwest corner on Reijolantie, thus making the historical axis visible in a new way (the Lääkärintie tram connection).

The complexity of the design task resulted in various proposals where the problems had been solved with patchwork solutions, suggesting different "fixes" for each part. While this was a rational strategy that brought forth many good ideas, on a smaller scale it often failed to create a coherent whole at the city scale. As the development of the area will be a long and unpredictable process, the jury agreed it would be necessary that the winning project includes in its design tools for development over a long period of time in possibly changing circumstances.

There were a number of proposals that addressed this question and added a new layer of buildings or hybrid structures with the aim of connecting different parts and adding cohesion. In many cases the added layer was too theoretical or would require a very high-quality one-time implementation in order to succeed. But in the most successful projects the new structure was so carefully studied, so flexible and yet distinctive that it actually managed to enhance the existing qualities of the site and the old buildings and at the same time create a new strong identity for the future.

## 3.2 PROPOSALS

### 3.2.1 Shortlist / Upper Category

#### FE038 WEAVING HELSINKI

The entry puts a strong emphasis on the landscape and does it in a skilful and sensitive manner. It utilises the entire repertoire of landscape architecture in order to provide a “healing” environment. Some of these landscape interventions, such as the blossoming cherry tree path, also manage to be positive references to the tradition of the well-maintained parks in the Taka-Töölö district and the hospital grounds. It presents a strong comprehensive approach; the proposal really seems custom-made for this very sensitive location.

The amount of infill building is restrained in scale, perhaps too much so. The traffic does not cut off the valley space. The buildings are presented in a very schematic way and not designed with the same sensitiveness as the external spaces. Their proposed locations seem strangely arbitrary and vague and they certainly do not contribute to providing new interesting urban spaces.

The positioning of the central hospital building partly underground in the heart of the valley is an interesting idea and has potential, particularly in the way it connects with the entry to Central Park. The functioning of the hospital does, however, remain unclear and gives rise to a multitude of unanswered questions, including those related to daylight.

The strengths of the proposal lie in the way it presents, from a landscaping point of view, a strong comprehensive approach. In this respect, the proposal really seems custom-made for this very sensitive location.

#### HS397 INSTITUTES WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

The most interesting contribution of this entry to the competition is its initial aim of breaking boundaries, both physical and mental. How well the entry succeeds in this is, however, debatable. In fact, the breaking of existing mental rather than physical boundaries may turn out to be more successful, as many of the proposed new activities will help in reducing the stigmatization that hospital areas so often suffer from. As far as physical boundaries are concerned, this does not seem to be particularly emphasised other than in the removal of all the surrounding fences. In fact, the proposed interventions do not actually improve the connection of the area to the surrounding urban structure. The covered network of passages links parts together, but as a structure it is heavy, cuts off the Central Park connection and isolates the equestrian arena from its surroundings. The abundance of pedestrian overpasses, when poorly implemented, could furthermore create unpleasant surroundings.

The holistic approach to healing is sympathetic and logical, but also somewhat trendy and predictable. Functions that are to varying degrees temporary hold the key to the creation of new identity(ies) for the area. These include farming and yoga retreats, all in keeping with the chosen philosophy(ies). The “diffuse hostels” scattered within the forest remain disconnected from each other, which seems somewhat contradictory with the stated aims of the project. Many of the other interesting ideas and proposals that appear in the texts and in the analysis have not quite been realised at the design level. One of the main weaknesses is the comparatively small amount of new building proposed. The suggested interventions do not greatly improve the urban townscape of the surroundings.

The great strengths of the entry lie in the thinking behind it and the strong belief in the strength of small-scale interventions. The entry is also very beautifully presented.

## IX338 CONFETTI

The entry is balanced, realistic and feasible, and presents an urban scale that catches the spirit of the place and the existing urban grain in a peaceful, yet convincing way. The connections to the surrounding city are well thought out, although they do not actually present any new ways to make the area more physically or mentally accessible to the public. To combat this and to emphasize the urbanity, the proposed new point blocks by Reijolankatu could, for instance, have been more boldly brought close to the edge of the street.

A new “health village” has been planned partially in existing or re-built hospital premises. Within this totality, some of the hospital functions have been replaced by commercial and service functions. The resulting multi-functional, flexible, glass-covered complex forms a logical starting point for the main building of the future modern campus. This solution does, however, give rise to some doubts. Are the protected buildings best served by their facades being partially obscured by the new glazed roofs? Will the result, more than anything else, resemble a shopping centre?

The treatment of Lääkärintä street is basically sound, although the placing of the point blocks in the park can be questioned – they give the impression of being something of an afterthought. The treatment of the Aurora side of the competition area, with its very sympathetic new group of buildings to serve child psychiatry, is one of the very best in the competition. Also the treatment of the new western edge of the entrance to Central Park is very natural and convincing.

The new football pitches with parking underneath south of Nordenskjöldinkatu, the proposed tramway bridge, and the abundance of potential vehicle access points for the underground parking in the hospital area are all interesting and potentially useful ideas. The entry shows a very high level of professionalism, also testified by the quality of the architecture presented in the 3D drawings.

## MC989 SENSORIAL HUG

This entry presents one of the most original concepts of the whole competition. The continuous snakelike structure meanders in the surroundings in a manner that is undoubtedly carefully considered but nevertheless feels somewhat arbitrary.

The “snake” does not appear to be particularly strongly linked to its location – nor does it link anything in particular to itself. It has a tendency to cut itself off from Central Park, cutting the natural pedestrian and bicycle connections. In the end it seems to close off and create boundaries, rather than open up and connect. The concept, in order to work, would have to be based on a clearly greater degree of permeability than what is shown in the entry. By treating some parts of the “snake” as mere canopies or other landscaped features, as well as creating a more programmatically varied content for the built-up parts, some of these shortcomings could perhaps have been avoided. A more permeable approach would also facilitate realisation in terms of phasing and longer-term flexibility.

The presented floor plans are professional and possess pleasant qualities. On the whole, the architectural qualities of the entry are of the kind that easily conjure up discussions about historical precedents and produce positive déjà-vu sensations. The elegant vignette drawing accompanying the explanatory text shows it at its strongest, some of the freshness is lost as the level of detail and precision increases.



## PQ966 ASCLEPEION

The entry is extremely rational and consistent, elegant, but bordering on the formalistic. The new street named "Terveysraitti" ("Health Route") starts from Nordenskiöldinkatu, enters the hospital area, and creates an impressive central axis for both the new and old buildings. The history of the area and the original pavilion hospital typology are highlighted in a logical fashion and the presently somewhat secretive and hidden campus is opened up to welcome the general public. The hospital area becomes not just a disjointed assemblage of buildings, so common to numerous hospital campuses all over the world, but a meaningful totality with the scale of the new structures well suited to the existing building stock. A meaningful dialogue between new and old has been created.

The presented programmatic content of the new hospital buildings shows that the author(s) are familiar with the prevalent international trends in healthcare design. Some of the proposed functions are, however, such that they probably will not, at least not to the extent shown, be part of the future activities on the campus. The dimensioning of the proposed blocks is nevertheless such that they could in the future serve a large variety of different functions, both health-care related, as well as others. This flexibility, particularly when coupled with the rationality inherent in the basic idea, gives scope for developing a sound strategy for the development of the area. The almost obsessive severity of the theme does, however, also present problems, one of which is serious.

The repetitive use of the "double block" no longer looks natural in the area north of Lääkärintäti. The use of this theme on the Aurora side of the competition area is questionable, both from the point of view of the topography, and particularly if it infringes on the protected buildings. The most serious problem, however, occurs at the entrance of the Central Park axis. The presented "gateway", even if it does not functionally block the movement in and out of the park, creates a spatial situation that is too tight and confined to function as part of a naturally flowing green sequence. The gateways with the attached housing should thus be removed if this project were to be developed further. This can be done without sacrificing any of the positive qualities inherent in the entry.

The architecture of the proposal is presented in a somewhat non-committal but nevertheless promising and professional manner. Things are largely left to the imagination and this should not be seen as a shortcoming. The 3D material shows that the scale is pleasantly urban and human, and that the promising "healing gardens" between the building blocks would play a major part in the ensemble. The parking is sensitively solved, a good example being the sunken parking level south of Nordenskiöldinkatu with a green roof on street level functioning as football pitches.

The granularity map, the "figure ground", illustrates the positive qualities of a rational approach of this kind. The resulting grain looks totally natural, and the spirit of the place is present.

## TZ802 LAAKSOKYLÄ

The entry seems to have taken its inspiration from a fictitious "traditional Finnish Village", attempting to achieve the nostalgic atmosphere of a close-knit community. The problem is that this attempted scale could lead to privatization of space instead of bringing more life to the surrounding neighbourhoods. As a "healing environment tool" the approach might even be successful, but at the same time it could negate many of the existing qualities of the site. The treatment of the Aurora section of the competition area is somewhat timid.

The proposal contains some nice ideas and some of the presented urban spaces have promising qualities. The treatment of the entry area to Central Park has merit. The entry is, on the whole, professionally and attractively presented.

## UT506 ROCK N ROLL

An interesting, many-faceted but nevertheless well-balanced project with plenty of potential. The proposed new grain, particularly on the Laakso side of the competition area, is very natural and responds well to the existing situation. The edge along Reijolankatu could, however, have a more determined character; it does not now present a sufficiently strong urbanity. On the whole, the Laakso area, in its proposed compactness, is nevertheless well linked to the surrounding urban structure; the routes to the hospital and the opening up of the functions to the surroundings have been well thought out. The new transversal "Laakso Boulevard" would have been an even better idea, had it been continued all the way to Mannerheimintie.

The presented functional diagrams are interesting and they show an understanding of the problems involved as well as the equations to be solved. The entrance to Central Park, the activation of its connection across Nordenskiöldinkatu, and the suggested activities in this area are all highly positive characteristics of the entry, as is the relationship between Central Park and its new surroundings in general. The tramway bridge in its proposed form could, however, be problematic. It is difficult to imagine that serious competitive equestrian events could take place underneath it.

The Aurora side of the competition area does not seem as naturally solved as the rest. The circular and oval building masses seem contrived and alien to the surrounding general grain and granularity. They also appear not to take much heed of the existing topography. The 3D material on these blocks succeeds, however, in showing that the latter worry may well be unfounded. Also the architecture of these elements is promising. The demolition of the nurses' dormitories from the 1950s is, however, definitely a mistake.

The heterogeneous character of the built form appears somewhat exhausting. Most of the shapes are nevertheless, "per se", well thought out, realistic and potentially interesting. As an example of this, the star shaped blocks north of Lääkärintie, could be mentioned. The parking has, on the whole, been organised well. There does, however, seem to be a lack of entrances to the underground premises. On the whole, the entry is professional and interesting and, above all, presents an urbanity with positive qualities of diversity and fun.

## YS639 VESISUKKULA

The entry basically concentrates on the essentials but still manages to produce a many-faceted, diverse, and interesting proposal. In some ways, the diversity does, however, also become a problem, a certain lack of organisation creeps in; an example of this is the uncalled for appearance of the circular residential buildings on the eastern edge of Central Park. The terraced houses on the Aurora side of the competition area also appear somewhat casual, if not altogether flippant.

In terms of health related activities and the present situation, the treatment of the central parts of the Laakso campus forms the most potentially interesting part of the entry. It is the only entry that takes the existing Synopsis complex, and its role in the future health care ensemble, as one of the starting points. The main entrance to Synopsis becomes a major public point of reference, which is a move in the right direction. The proposal is, however, maybe too strongly dependent on everything being built at approximately the same time – the process may be difficult to phase in a manner that would secure a high quality of urban space at all times during the development process. As a finished product, including the glass-covered streets, squares and passageways, the result could produce interesting urban spatial sequences of a very high quality. This ensemble, when completed, would nevertheless not have a particularly open profile vis-à-vis the surrounding city. This might have been improved by providing a stronger urban connection with Nordenskiöldinkatu.

Some good new connections to Central Park, also south of Nordenskiöldinkatu, have been proposed, while at the same time new buildings threaten to excessively squeeze down the “gateway” to the park. Some interesting new functions, such as the Nature Centre, have been proposed. The location of the latter can, however, be questioned. The pedestrian bridge over the equestrian area seems rather unnecessary.

This is the only higher quality proposal to have considered storm-water issues at all. However, one could now ask whether the use of storm water is over-dimensioned in relation to the amount that can be collected in the area.

### 3.2.2 Other entries

#### **AU531 FROM HEALING SPACE TO HEALING PLACE**

In this elegantly presented proposal the focus is correctly set on changing a hospital environment into a mixed urban environment. This is achieved by means of subtle interventions, new axes, infill buildings and widening the park at the park entrance. The most important middle axis to the Laakso hospital is neglected. There is also little connection between Laakso and Aurora. There are some beautiful details, such as the equestrian hotel for horses and riders at the side of the arena. The overall impression though is timid and overly careful; the nature of the new buildings remains too abstract.

#### **BL124 TOWARDS ANY CITY**

A sympathetic proposal that introduces an adaptable building typology in order to solve all spatial and programmatic needs in the area. A simple point block “hard core” accompanied with a “soft core” for temporary needs is inserted where needed to form housing and health-care blocks. These elements are well positioned; especially the Aurora neighbourhood block is one the most interesting ones presented. Still, the concept should have been further developed; now the abstractness of the invented tool produces caricature architecture that does not manage to create a satisfying urban structure, which is mostly evident in the aerial renderings. The connections and landscape of the site have received only little attention.

#### **CC987 YHDEN TAIVAAN ALLA**

The proposal is difficult to read and to grasp. There is hardly any visible effort to create urban space. The groups of buildings seem randomly distributed and their scale appears to vary from one document to another.

#### **CU664 PANCAKE IN THE OVEN**

The entry seems to have been prepared in a hurry and is basically unfinished. The residential blocks north of Lääkärinkatu have a good urban scale and grain. The tower blocks on Nordenskiöldinkatu are less successful. The free-hand perspective drawings are promising and make one regret that the author(s) did not put more effort into this project.

#### **GR756 MOONLIGHT**

The approach is original; the remaining buildings are surrounded by strings of small generic buildings in the shape of pearl necklaces. These buildings then adapt themselves to current needs, serving as housing, hospital buildings, etc. Looping pathways connect these parts. As an idea of urban structure, the proposal has a lot of charm, but on closer inspection it is clear that the approach is also very problematic. Not only do these loops isolate the buildings inside and further disintegrate the existing city structure but they also disregard

the existing landscape qualities of the site. As units for either housing or health care, the individual buildings are too small and would be expensive to maintain and inefficient to use; so it would actually not be easy to switch from one use to the other as the unit is not really well suited for either.

## **HN564 OUT OF BORDER**

The historical axial composition is enforced by a repeating block grid that fills most of the site. As a planning tool this is promising and could provide a good backbone for new functions on this site, but in this proposal it has been used in a repetitive and simplistic manner. The block grid stretches too far north into Central Park where also an unnecessarily large acute care ward has been positioned. The southern part of the site seems unfinished and unconnected. The size of the housing block and its conceptual floor plan are unconvincing. For unexplained reasons, the Aurora site has been ignored completely. Instead of strengthening the site's identity the competition area has been densified but not opened up.

## **HO336 MEDIANUM**

Twelve lengthy (and indeed worthy) objectives to be remembered when preparing a good master plan are presented in the text. Unfortunately very few of them are met. There is some merit in the way the entry tackles the task on so many different levels, but this also results in a lot of irrelevant material. Urban space (in spite of the expressed objectives) remains on the sidelines.

## **HS688 VALLEY OF CURIOSITY**

The proposal embraces curiosity and participation as the keys to an attractive living environment. This is in the actual proposal mainly highlighted through adding various activities promoting elements which mostly remain rather vague. The valley centre is well executed but the apartment blocks north of Lääkärintäti stretch too far into the park privatizing the inner yards. The entry succeeds best on a diagram level but does not manage to bring its ideas to urban or architectural implementation. The suggested elements are reasonably well positioned but remain abstract and are partly contradictory to the goals presented in the text.

## **JT938 BACK TO FRONT**

The entry's merits lie in the "front-end building" which, both from a functional and a townscape point of view, could be a positive intervention. This is indicated also in the perspective drawing which, as well as the one showing the new urban Lääkärintäti, shows good qualities. The over simplification and logo-like character of the three new main masses is, however, not convincing and does not fit in with the surrounding urban grain.

## **NO577 EASY LIVING**

A new autonomous village-like structure takes over the area, which intentionally disregards the existing axial structure. Following current hospital trends, the focus is on an effective core hospital with service living and hotel facilities surrounding it. These service blocks are interestingly designed combining block hospitals, service apartments and independent housing and present an innovative and attractive building typology. In terms of city structure, the result is less logical and the intended small scale of a village fragments the area further. The orientation of most connections is unmotivated and partly even offensive. The violent insertion of the core hospital in between the old hospital buildings was not seen as a good solution. While problematical in terms of urban structure, it shows professional skills on block scale and overall presentation.

## **OC711 ARTIFICIAL REEFS**

The proposal is based on the repetition of the same theme in six different locations within the competition area. Considering how different these locations are, both in terms of functional and urban requirements, and how site-specific (and function-specific) this theme appears, the chosen approach fails to convince. The emphasis on house plans does not help to sell the urban idea.

## **OX970 THE MANY LIVES OF A HOSPITAL**

The emphasis in the presented material is not as it should be. Too much energy is spent on the analysis and particularly on material such as medical centre ICT systems, in what is after all supposed to be an architectural/urban design competition. The proposed new buildings do not contribute to forming interesting urban spaces; in fact, they seem more like afterthoughts.

## **PI098 WELCOME TO HEALTHY HUNT**

The proposal presents a highly energetic and positive future for the area - an academic project in a happy-go-lucky way. The process of rehabilitation is turned into an amusement park ride with activities that sadly do not seem rooted to this place. The old buildings are dressed up or actually completely covered with schematical metal structures and new buildings are created in the same temporary fashion. The justification for this is debatable, especially as it seems expensive, difficult, aesthetically problematic and mostly unnecessary. The actual urban plan and the environment it would create is strongly obscured by the presentation which balances between charming and irritating.

## **QM701 INVERTED URBANISM**

As the pseudonym suggests, this project constructs four separate densely built campuses that form urban islands. The rest of site is understood as the extension of Central Park. While the proposal shows a lot of professional skill, is carefully studied and consistent in its logic, the validity of the main idea was questioned by the jury. The position of the campuses and their connection with the existing structure seem forced, especially by the park entrance. The Aurora infill cluster is the most successful one. The concept also contradicts the open topographical structure that the old hospital campuses are based on. The visualisations of the new urban squares did not manage to convince the jury of the qualities of the concept.

## **SF033 EIR CAMPUS**

The proposal is not very convincing on any level. The buildings north of Lääkärintäti are strangely detached from everything. The perspective drawing shows that the scale of the new main square is not very successful. The new axis does, however, nicely emphasize the main entrance to Synopsis.

## **UD279 TERVEYDEKSI**

A skilful and in some parts elegant entry that clearly divides functions spatially. The merits of the entry lie in the typologies suggested for the assisted living blocks along the newly created central axis. These appear promising and fun. The new large hospital building, while elegant in form, is positioned awkwardly so as to block the connection to Central Park completely. Also the future adaptability of such a large mono-functional complex was questioned. The solution for the Aurora site seems detached. The renderings do not live up to the promise of the plans and axonometric drawings.

## **VM175 OPEN CHROMULTI**

A very carefully researched entry where the intelligent analysis mostly focuses on fairly essential aspects. The design, however, is disappointing. The use of the only “tool”, the long curved building that narrows down at one end, becomes tedious and oppressive and remains totally inappropriate in this context.

## **WX165 EASTSIDE TÖÖLÖ**

The proposal correctly suggests changing a formerly isolated hospital area into an extension of Töölö. The rhythm of the new city structure is reasonably well organized and all individual pieces are in their right places, but as a whole it lacks character – it does not grasp the spirit of a new East Töölö. The same dispassionate approach is evident in most of its documents – only the park entrance is presented with more sensitivity.

## **XA004 S-MIX**

The centrepiece of the entry is a new undulating hospital building replacing the old health care centre. While expressive in its architecture, it is very schematic in its programme and at odds with its surroundings. The individual block concepts are interesting but as an urban plan the project lacks cohesion and connections and can only be understood as a collection of disconnected individual buildings.

## **XX089 DINGLE & DAWN**

This professionally presented entry is interesting in many ways. The new hybrid hospital shows that the authors are aware of the latest trends in hospital design. The proposed building would, considering its dimensioning, probably not be very flexible and its use for any other purpose than a hospital might be problematic. It is in any case unlikely that an acute hospital of this size would be placed on this site. Its location in the Central Park area north of Lääkärintie was also not seen as a good starting point.

There are many promising ideas, including exercise and theme routes, that attempt at further activating this portion of Central Park, but somehow the proposed elements are disconnected and detached from the existing situation and from each other. The elements of a solution are there but the whole lacks cohesion and seems unfinished. The presented circular building is too massive for its proposed location. In spite of its many positive qualities, the entry suffers from a certain lack of cohesion.

## **ZS769 FIT FINLAND**

The chosen set of strategies is well presented and the aim for social cohesion and liveliness in the area hardly leaves place for disagreement. As in many proposals the existing campus structure is densified with built volumes that react to their program and but only little to each other and to their position in the whole and the logic of the urban structure is difficult to follow. The many sympathetic ideas presented concerning target groups and activities seem to relate very little to the slightly random city milieu. This sketchiness is visible also from the bird's-eye views where also the scale becomes strangely obscured. The presentation generally is visually convincing and fun.



## 4 KUOPIO

### 4.1 GENERAL EVALUATION

The Kuopio site and the competition objectives could at first sight be perceived to be straightforward, even simple, but finding the right interventions in the right scale ultimately did not prove easy for the participants. There was a great variety of approaches among the proposals, varying from the decision to build nothing on the site to maximising density with metropolitan-type high rises. Many proposals introduced interesting ideas and new typologies but without much connection to the existing conditions or ignoring the need to integrate the site with the city as clearly stated in the competition brief. Although there were only a few high-quality entries that addressed all the objectives carefully with architecturally convincing ideas, the overall level of the competition can be considered sufficiently high as it produced a great scope of very different ideas that highlight many, if not all, possible futures of the site.

The main objective of the competition was to defragment the existing urban structure, with the most obvious challenge in the railway line that cuts through the site, disconnecting the northern part from the rest of the city. This was also recognised by most participants and dealt with in many ways. One of the most popular solutions was to cover the railway line completely for the whole width of the site. This created a new artificial landscape and thus buried the problem underground. Although this effective strategy was already mentioned in the competition brief, it has its challenges: in many cases the landfill was combined with very little building, making it hardly economically feasible. Also, the requirement to build seven metres above the tracks made the artificial landfill quite massive. In many proposals this premise had been overlooked, which led to solutions that in reality would be hard to implement. In the best proposals in this category a relatively light covering was combined with high density of building (e.g. “Meetings & Greetings” and “Run to the Hills”).

Another way to solve the problem of the railway line was to concentrate buildings over the railway, thereby attempting to make the problem the solution. These proposals were often elegant but in many cases theoretical, especially in organizing the traffic flows on many levels high above the ground. Often these proposals also neglected the site around them and created a strong visual barrier that is contradictory to the demands of urban defragmentation.

The simplest forms of new links within the site were bridges and smaller overpasses that were also presented in many proposals. Although in some cases this did not adequately improve the existing situation, it, combined with smart positioning in the city structure, could very effectively reconnect both sides of the railway line in a simple gesture creating new focal points and links (e.g. the new link between the ice hockey arena and old school building in “Savo Nueva”).

The other main goal of the competition was to develop the visual image of the city entrance along Puistokatu and give the area a new distinct identity as an extension of the city centre. This was interpreted in differing ways but three main strategies could be recognised: The first attempt was literally to create a gateway, often with the help of landmark buildings at the end of Puistokatu, most often a tower or a group of towers. These solutions often misinterpreted the scale of the city and recycled popular architectural imagery without a personal vision or a true connection to the site. In these proposals the reintegration of the site within the city structure remained weak and the quality of the proposed housing units and their street level architecture could not meet the demands required.

Continuing the city grid in one way or another was an approach that was successful on many levels. It gave easy tools to overcome the railway tracks and design the Puistokatu edge in an urban manner. Integration of different functions is easy in a traditional city block structure. Yet there was also often something stagnant in the application of a conventional city grid and none of the proposals in this group could successfully integrate the existing school buildings within this city structure.

In the most innovative group of entries, the potential of the place was understood in its own terms and recreated by a new element: an identity building, a bridge, a public space or innovative addition to the existing buildings (“Savo Nueva” and “Somewhere over the train flow”). Sometimes there was too much focus on the new identity building and the rest of the site was neglected or not studied in detail. But in the most interesting proposals there was a finely achieved balance between old and new buildings, open spaces and densely built blocks and a clear sense of orientation and strong identity. In these cases the new connections and the possibility to perceive the place in a new way could instigate a new kind of even spontaneous urban activity in the Hatsala Campus area.

## 4.2 PROPOSALS

### 4.2.1 Shortlist / Upper Category

#### AL560 CRONOTOPIA

The entry only partially responds to the aims of the competition. Major sections of the competition area have been completely ignored. What has been presented, in spite of the fact that almost everything remains unanswered, immediately appears intriguing and fascinating. This very theoretical proposal appears to attempt at solving all the problems with a couple of swift strokes of the pen. When going deeper into the ideas, you realize that these two strokes actually give rise to a lot of potential variety and that the development of the ideas shows a certain promising rationality. Unfortunately, on this particular site, the chosen approach has led to very few problems being solved.

Large portions of the explanatory text are confusing, irrelevant and unnecessary. Nevertheless, the entry is beautifully presented, the typological graphs are fascinating as well as a lot of fun, and the general approach is, in spite of everything, utterly refreshing.



## NF781 RUN TO THE HILLS

The entry is based on a fairly lightweight planted deck covering the railway line. This is a realistic starting point, especially since the deck becomes part of a natural route through the proposed pleasantly scaled and semi-enclosed urban housing blocks. In these housing blocks, together with the directional green park sections that form the connecting elements between them, lie the principal merits of this entry.

That having been said, these merits are actually only present in the two southernmost blocks along Karjalankatu. The higher blocks of flats along this artery, that today presents a spatially rather undefined streetscape, clearly improve its urban qualities. The townhouses that complete these two blocks can perhaps be seen as somewhat alien to the Kuopio tradition, but do, at the same time, provide a potentially attractive alternative for urban living in this city.

The two western blocks are unfortunately not equally successful. The introduction of point blocks gives the whole area an unnecessarily suburban feel. At least in the block closest to Kuopio Hall, it might have been better to continue the pattern established by the two westernmost blocks. In the block containing the educational building, this may indeed have been more difficult, but as it is the framing of the latter in the proposed way is not convincing.

The entry is, nevertheless, among the very best in the competition. It is professionally presented and clearly shows that its author(s) possess potential to create urban interventions of a high quality.

## NN417 MEETINGS AND GREETINGS

This is also an entry that provides a lightweight decking solution over the railway containing a pedestrian and cycling route through the area as well as communal allotments. This is a sensible and realistic starting point. The entry is balanced, has a pleasant urban grain, and contains many good ideas.

The main feature of the entry is the new interpretation of the Kuopio grid, including its special feature, the alleyways that traverse the urban blocks. The resulting five urban blocks provide a dense urban environment that forms a natural-looking continuation to the structure of the city centre as well as a strong urban edge along Karjalankatu. The pedestrian and cycling routes between the centre and the competition area, however, remain less convincing and somewhat confusing.

In spite of the effort to provide diversity in the massing through varying the treatment of the pitched roofs, the architecture is somewhat monotonous and lacks flair. The accent, the last block of the row along Karjalankatu, in its heavy clumsiness, is not the elegant landmark it seems to want to be. The proposed functions are nevertheless well thought out, and the area could become a desirable alternative for city living in Kuopio.

## VQ733 SOMEWHERE OVER THE TRAIN FLOW

The proposal immediately strikes the viewer as intriguing and fascinating. It conjures up images of the urban utopias and megastructures of the 1960s and 1970s, while at the same time containing many topical and fashionable ideas, both related to the chosen architectural language, as well as the diverse and lively hybridity of the proposed functions.

The architecture does, however, also present problems. The relationship between solids and voids on the facades and the presented monochrome colour scheme actually exaggerate

the heaviness and scale (nothing is actually more than ten stories high) of the individual masses and the whole composition. This leads to a situation where many would see the proposal as a dystopia rather than a utopia. Another major problem is the cost involved in decking over the railway as shown in the entry. The fact that the rest of the site has not been studied at all is also a weakness.

The proposal is, nevertheless, full of positive qualities. It is beautifully presented and in spite of the relative complexity of the concept, every part of the complex is studied, both in plan and in section. As far as plans of the different housing units go, the entry also shows far more detail than what would have been required. While this can be seen as a sign of diligence and dedication, it also renders the author(s) vulnerable to unnecessary criticism, when every single dwelling type shown is not ideally solved.

Maybe the genius loci of Kuopio as we know it today is not quite present in this proposal. However, if this brave high-quality entry were to be realized as the basis for the redevelopment of this part of the city, the amount of architectural tourism to Kuopio would certainly experience a dramatic increase.

## **XM159 SAVO NUEVA**

The entry proposes the demolition of Kuopio Hall. This must be interpreted as a somewhat premature procedure – the Hall has not yet reached the end of its lifespan, it is in regular use, and is seen as a major asset to the City. The explanatory text defines the housing blocks that would replace the Hall as an “area for young families... who need a bit more space for living and a place for a car nearby”. This proposed development for North-West Hatsala is pleasant enough in scale and atmosphere, but since it most probably has to give way to the continuing life of Kuopio Hall, the entry, fortunately, has plenty of other goodies to offer. It is also the only one of the top entries that does not rely on decking over the entire railway crevice.

The three blocks containing apartment buildings as well as townhouses on Hatsala Hill, just south of and parallel to the railway, together with the bridge over the railway and its continuation as the “Health Bazaar”, form one of the most interesting and original urban ensembles of the competition. The gently meandering housing blocks sit well in the landscape and the topography and the rows of townhouses skilfully articulate the scale of the semi-private courtyards. The wide bridge over the railway that going north turns into the Health Bazaar has the potential to become one of the most handsome public spaces in Kuopio. As presented, it is perhaps slightly over-dimensioned but this can easily be corrected. This “health axis” also provides the programmatic “meat” for the new area.

The building that now forms the campus of Savonia University of Applied Sciences becomes the new Health Campus which provides a focal point for the people housed in this area (seniors, students, young families, etc.) as well as other people in the vicinity. The former sports hall has been remodelled into a multi-purpose hall and incorporated in the concept to provide a cultural input. The former Savonia courtyard has also been incorporated as part of the Health Bazaar, and thus put into active use.

The western edge of Karjalankatu remains ill-defined. Its “level of urbanisation” is not greatly improved by the proposal. The four point blocks, if anything, give the street an increasingly suburban feel. This would be one of the major challenges in the further development of this proposal. Another aspect that would need further development is where to place the “floor area lost” by the continuing life of Kuopio Hall. Could the answer possibly lie in thinking about these two “problematic” aspects as two sides of the same coin?

## 4.2.2 Other entries

### **BV636 UP & DOWN**

In spite of the main element of the entry being basically a megastructure-like massive hybrid, the resulting grain and scale manage to be relatively balanced and pleasant. In spite of this, the “beef” still somehow seems to be lacking. The proposed tower seems to be in the wrong place, particularly if it is supposed to represent a new “city gate”. The northern parts of the competition site have been left almost completely unstudied.

### **CQ303 I LIVE HEALTH CITY**

An almost exhaustingly thorough and ample presentation of a well put-together and professional entry, and which in some other location might have become a real success. Here in Kuopio, the fortress-like line of attack does not connect very convincingly to its surroundings; nor do the scale and aggressiveness of the five towers successfully contribute towards producing the desired effect. The spirit of the place has not been caught.

The proposed five megablocks are without doubt interesting. For one thing, they manage to produce an urban grain where the oversized existing sports buildings seem to feel perfectly at home. Their potential as super-flexible hybrids offering a great diversity of functions is also obvious, as testified by the fascinating ground level plans.

### **FM782 CIRCUIT**

It is easy to question the wisdom of the demolition of the ice hockey arena and extension of the lake when the resulting benefits are not convincingly documented. The former intervention seems rather haphazard, whereas the latter is easier to understand but rather unrealistic. The entry presents an interesting concept that could, in theory, become the theme for the redevelopment of the area. More effort should, however, have been put on creating high-quality urban spaces. The effect of the railway line crevice on the area seems to have been ignored.

### **GB913 SPACE INVADER**

The entry suggests a large mono-block covering the railway line, absorbing the existing school building and integrating different functions under one roof. Although this visually connects the two parts of the site, it disrupts rather than improves current connections. The size and heights of the new buildings are not in balance with the existing city and the achieved atmosphere is more rejective than tempting.

### **GM383 CENTIPEDE**

The proposal addresses the core problem of the site in an inventive way by collecting and condensing traffic arteries and building programmes in a new building over the railway line. The old university is transformed mainly into housing. The rest of the site is regrettably left mostly undetermined or turned into parking lots, which undermines the power of the “urban condenser”.

### **GM412 FROM LANDSCAPE TO LANDSHAPE**

The proposed urban structure is uneven and undetermined. Most of the site has basically been left to its own devices, and links from the proposed interventions to the existing buildings are weak. The presented apartment block clusters, arranged around an oval,

partially sunken urban plaza, are, however, interesting and original. The architecture of the blocks promises a high quality and the granularity of the clusters is pleasant, although the overall result is somewhat suburban. The presentation is thorough, including the interesting phasing ideas.

## **HS163 LINKED-IN PARK**

All strategic steps made in the proposal are justified and convincing: the new bridge, and inserting new overlapping functions with new identities. The proposed city structure and architecture, on the other hand, are awkward and mostly unfounded. The park spaces and parking facilities on both sides of the track do not solve the existing problem of the railway line.

## **IA832 5x5**

The author has created a bold gesture with five to twenty stories high towers connected on the lower level by a meandering commercial building that crosses the railway line. Viewed from the distance, the solution has a monumental beauty but the surroundings of the buildings and the most important scale of the pedestrian and cyclist are completely neglected, and the quality of the streetscape is unconvincing.

## **IM757 OPEN CITY**

The proposal presents another reinterpretation of the neoclassical grid. This one is perhaps more relaxed and potentially elegant than some of the others. One is aware of a strong, and largely successful effort at bringing coherence to the competition area. The entry's weaknesses lie in the presentation of the qualities of the urban spaces and the architecture surrounding them. Maybe more time should have been spent on this, rather than the detailed analysis, and particularly the extremely detailed programmatic table where every square metre is accounted for.

## **JG179 OLOTILA**

The park-like new connection is an interesting and cleverly placed element. The railway line is completely covered under an extensive landfill which is then sparsely and arbitrarily built on. The sympathetic but disconnected parts of the plan do not form a coherent whole and justify the expensive landfill.

## **NE340 KITKA**

As an effort to recreate the Kuopio grid (including the traversing alleyways) on a different set of coordinates, the entry is not the best one in the competition. It does, however, produce reasonably pleasant urban spaces, an appropriate density, and a realistic starting point for redevelopment. The way the proposal attempts to incorporate the existing public buildings into the new ensemble results in some clumsy collisions. The quality of the presentation is very uneven. Some of the presented documents would have benefited from having been left out altogether.

## **NM462 SOLAR ADOPTION**

A topographical mega-block covers the railway tracks, incorporating artificially landscaped new pathways, underground parking and housing blocks. The plan does not address the school building. The advantages of the proposal could not all be evaluated due to the complexity of the presentation.

## **LP802 LINKPHOSYS**

The entry is worthy of merit due to its remarkably brave approach – basing the whole proposal on a small number of very large objects placed in a seemingly haphazard fashion in different parts of the competition area. Presenting floor plans of dwellings while playing around with the somewhat out-of-scale building blocks does, however, seem like a strange choice of priorities.

## **OA553 RADICAL PINK**

As the author states, this is more a personal manifesto than a competition proposal. Citing and combining thoughts by architectural theorists, the author presents general views on creating positive city space. To give a valid evaluation of this manifesto, it would have been necessary to give these thoughts of restoring and re-using an urban form in this specific context.

## **PC245 LINK**

The suggested giant plaza, which provides the “link” and the passage across the railway line, gives the impression of being an over-dimensioned traffic artery. This huge central urban space is defined by a huge central building, a new dominant feature for the area. This building is basically just a car park. The positive side is that this car park has a green sloping roof, which really could become a pleasant place for crowds to congregate, particularly if it was facing south and not north-east. The connections to the city centre are not improved by the proposed interventions. The few brave and bold strokes that constitute the conceptual starting point of the entry remain its main strengths.

## **QM238 URBAN EMANATION**

Due to its incomplete presentation, it is not possible to evaluate the entry as a whole. The lower point block proposed on the southern edge of the site has a fun rhythm and scale but the plan as a whole is incomprehensible.

## **WE528 GRADISCA**

The entry presents a multitude of sympathetic and sensible ideas about urban life in the future. It calls itself “long-term aimed” and it “anticipates future evolutions and needs”. Its merits lie in the basic thinking behind the proposed interventions. The drawn material is of an uneven quality, the presentation techniques leave a lot to be desired, and the presented documents leave a lot of unresolved contradictions. It is even difficult to judge whether a very small amount of new building, or alternatively a rather large amount, has been proposed.

## **WU386 THE LIVING PARK**

The contrast between the village and the large-scale suburb is simultaneously intriguing and baffling. The large objects, as well as the clusters of small objects, are placed in the competition area with an apparent lack of interest in the quality and scale of the spaces that are created between them. The randomness works better in the small-scale clusters but the logic of it all remains very vague indeed. There are positive qualities in the architecture of some of the individual buildings.

## **ZC942 TANSSILAVA**

Creating a city entrance with towers is visually striking but a difficult strategy and the space created between them is not convincing as a place for great urban diversity as the author suggests. The small-scale housing that pairs the towers is here misplaced.