



THE NORWEGIAN EUROPEAN 12 JURY REPORT

Asker

General remarks by the jury

Asker was not an easy location. The site of the former mental hospital presented many challenges: dealing with the existing, intervening in an area with different preserved zones: the forest, the buildings, the waterfront; bringing a new identity while respecting its history as well. The brief asks for three scales of intervention: an overall plan, a consistent redesign for its central area, and an idea for the new programme. The hospital complex presents a peculiar 'colonial style' masterplan composed of large single buildings distributed in a very undense masterplan. This represented an innovative idea for the design of medical institutions. This layout of 'island of density' has developed an own relation with the nature, which in the jury's opinion should be preserved and reinforced. This will help to clearly identify the areas for densification and the areas that should remain untouched.

The centre area needs a strong plan that helps reinforcing this character of future 'centre' of the entire development. This idea should also explore clear potentials like a direct relation to the water, which will enlarge the qualities of this space.

The project needs a good understanding of the fact that Asker has already started a serious decay and that it needs a strong convincing strategy that both acts on the 'hardware' and the 'software' to stop decaying, bring new qualities and ensure a lasting functioning to generate a new identity and to bring it back to the self-sufficient community that it was 100 years ago. A good and healthy mix of 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' ideas is necessary.

The jury found that few proposals have displayed a full understanding of these conditions of the site, as well as the real needs and the potentials.

The key questions are: how to bring a new identity that still keeps the history of the place? How to intervene in the area adding density without impacting the special masterplan? How to create a high quality centre that acts like a gravity point and becomes the meeting point of the new developments? And all, exploring and revealing all the potentials that the site of Dikemark has to offer.

Winner; (VW438) Kaleidoscope

This proposal gains distinction through a fine reading and understanding of the landscape as a driver, that gives identity and defines the area's atmosphere and unity, but also enables very different relationships between building and landscape. Based on this approach four zones are defined - Hidden in the Woods, Twin Plaza, Fortress of Heritage and Open to the Water - reflecting different potentials and positions in the landscape and the existence of different building formations and spatial formations. Next to characterizing the existing built landscape these terms also present strategies and guiding principles for how to develop the four zones.

Through this synthesizing reading of the landscape and the appointment of the four zones an operational understanding of the existing built landscape is created, giving a sure and strategic foundation for the development and reinterpretation of the sub-areas.



The northernmost zone - Hidden in the Woods - covers an area with free-standing patient buildings. In this section a development-strategy is proposed, where the new buildings joins tightly around an existing building. This maintains the fundamental relationship between landscape and building: The extended conglomerate of buildings remains a point and a local densification in the landscape, handing over the main role to the forest.

The Fortress of Heritage and Twin Plaza - includes the central part of the existing buildings, with different service buildings organized in a more urban form, with square-like spaces. In this section a development strategy is proposed, providing an extended system of open spaces and passages, creating new connections and relationships to the water. There is hereby established a clear center - as demanded in the program - creating a neighborhood that offers spatial qualities and experiences differing from the small enclaves in the forest. However a greater density in this area must be developed to ensure a center-feeling, based on programmatic and spatial density. The very important relations to the water should also be further processed.

Open by the water is a new town by the sea in the transition to the agricultural landscape in the southernmost part of the competition-area. This new district is composed of semidetached houses and is to the east connected to a kind of experience-landscape, where there will be opportunities to get up close to nature's processes and products. This southern settlement appears to be less convincing, both in its landscape position and in its structure and architecture.

But despite the weakness in the southern field the Kaleidoscope-project stands forward as a very convincing bid, because it is able to operate at a strategic level and at the same time present very clear structural and architectural principles, that will make the plan very flexible and robust, maintaining and enhancing the unique qualities of the landscape.

The jury is convinced that this methodological approach and clear principles based on an intelligent and enlightened reading of landscape, can ensure a high quality in the transformation of this area, which is expected to occur over a relatively long period.

Runner up; (BW208) Ola K Asker

This proposal offers a new conceptual model for Asker, in order to infuse identity and development in the local community. It is indeed a very interesting and distinct project that relies on a specific material, wood, as the identity trigger of the project. This identity-related strategy was considered a strong value, although wood was very far from been a satisfactory choice, since the area does not have actual potentials related to wood industry. It, however, could be easily replaced by other activities. Therefore the general strategy was valued, but not its specifics.

The project stresses the issue of adaptability and sustainability in a very consistent way, but the bottom-up strategy within the project is maybe too slow for what the area needs. A supplementary top-down strategy that allowed for a quick enhancement of the needed growth would have been highly appreciated. The proposed reprogramming of the existing buildings would probably not be enough for the much-needed kickoff action. In general terms, although the overall strategy made sense for some of the jury members, it was agreed that the proposed soft and random occupation protocol was very problematic for a successful implementation. Finally, the architectural proposal is interesting in a way that is consistent with the bottom-up tactics at the core of the project. In broad terms, it was valued more as a software than a hardware proposal, in a site that nevertheless is in critical need for new structures.



Special mention; (OR775) The Leaf

The project seeks for a radical reinterpretation of the site's current state. This is dealt with at two levels: firstly, a new way of inhabiting the wooded landscape with new typologies such as treehouses and circles is proposed. Secondly, a new community center is projected by turning the existing buildings of the current center inside out. This reinterpretation is both compelling and provocative. It opens visions beyond the brief's questions: What if the "colonial plan" of Dikemark is reread by offering new -landscape engaging- forms of dwelling in the forest such as living in the tree tops or in clearances? What if the buildings, loaded with the memory of servicing a psychiatric institution, are turned into ruins and therefore release new usages? Although the suggested typologies are interesting in themselves, the overall scheme of sprawling density destroys Dikemark's natural environment at most. The suggested distribution of dwellings would need an enormous additional -car-based- infrastructure, an aspect that the project clearly has not taken into consideration.

The proposed center, with its roofing of the existing outdoor spaces, implies the privatisation of public spaces. Thus, rather than the proclaimed -semiotic- opening, the proposal portends controlled access, similar to the guarded management of shopping malls.

It is the imaginative and aesthetic qualities of the project that are honored by the jury. The jury recommends taking interpretation "beyond" practicality, commodification and planning rhetorics into consideration when developing the site: finally, history, topography and landscape specificities are at stake.

Bærum

General remarks by the jury

The Hamang site in Sandvika is a site where a lot of possibilities will occur in the nearest future. Thanks to the decision to reroute the E16 into a tunnel. This will mean that the site could have a much better connection with the existing centre but also that the centre will be connected to the beautiful nature at the site. The dynamics to keep the nature and give possibilities to follow the rhythm of the flooding and nature will be a great asset for the city as a whole. The challenge is also to connect the site with the surrounding areas and the city centre itself.

Many of the proposals show that it is possible to create an axis from the site to the centre southwards. It is also possible to connect the area to the railway station through the existing school if a passage and new bridges are created. It is also a possibility to connect the area westwards with the existing industrial area that will be used to erect new buildings on both sides of the river. It is at the same time possible to integrate the area into the development.

The common impression of the proposals is that the site really has many qualities to be developed and thanks to that give Sandvika new attractiveness to the inhabitants and also newcomers that only work in Sandvika today.

Winner; (QX245) Social riverscape

The proposal has an analysing and intellectual approach that is of great interest. It seems that the authors' understand the regional context that is an important part of the possibilities that Sandvika has to deal with. The proposal also shows how new efficient public transportation increases the needs of communities on



site and how they could be created. This discussion is also a part of the concept. Especially the discussion concerning the volatile situation between inhabitants, visitors and commuters is interesting and how this is taken into the design process to programming the spaces along the river to a social network.

The river space and the river itself is the base for the proposed new development. The keywords are rhythm – nature – urban development. The rhythm of people, built spaces and nature is very well described and could also be seen in the proposed structure.

The first face to move the school and to create a green skeleton, together with a new program and a partly demolition of the existing school together with new bridges, connect the different parts of the site with the city and the railway station. However the connections southwards to the shopping area and city centre could have been made stronger. The possibilities of the river and the nature are very well used and the new spaces that are created could strengthen this asset. The site is also expanded over the river westwards and takes this part into the concept in a convincing way. The proposal is building on the right spots but could have been more developed concerning density and the spatial structure. The structure is very well programmed thanks to a good analysis and a good discussion.

The relation between the discussing texts and the proposed structure is also very congruent. This means that the proposal could be developed in different directions and still rely on the analysis and principles of the proposal.

Runner up; (OZ976) Elasticity

Elasticity deals with the necessity of density in the area by proposing a building typology that solves both collective and individual programs. It is one of the few proposals that have been appreciated by the municipality in terms of the expected urban density. Kjørbotangen is kept as a natural and recreational area without built structures, a fact that has been also valued.

Nevertheless, "Elasticity" relies more on architectonic solutions than in urbanistic ones. This is the project's strength and weakness. Although robust, the architectural proposal is formulaic and generic. Programmatically it distributes mixed uses throughout the big semi-closed blocks, deploying a well-developed overall section that relates the river banks with the interior of the blocks. This allows for a public solution for both the river limits and the collective interior spaces, and has been a key element for the jury in selecting the project as runner up. Nevertheless, from an urban point of view, although it proposes an adequate connection with the South Sandvika Center, the project is too straightforward and the organization does not properly value the spaces in between the blocks outside the architectural objects.

Special mention; (CW895) Hamang Riparian Zone

The project situates the development of the site within the topographical and ecological context of the Sandviks River and its hydrological dynamics. The proposals not only addresses seasonal flooding but also the natural meandering that occurs naturally over time in case of a stream not being channelled. The project seeks to accommodate space for these future changes by giving space to the river and claims that it is this riparian system -including its specific and diverse flora and fauna developing over time- that defines the character of the site. In this reading of the site the project stands out. With compelling drawings, a narrative



section that vividly depicts the programmes and detailed explorations of possible forms of inhabitation of the river zone evokes curiosity and stimulation.

Unfortunately the urgent challenges of density that Sandvika is facing in regards to its position within the region of Oslo and the question of connectivity to the city fabric and transportation system are not addressed. The distribution of volumes appears arbitrary and a circulation network, including distinct public and private spaces is not formulated.

However, in regards to the European topic of "Adaptable City" the project offers an intriguing scheme, it expands the subtheme of Ecorhythms onto a time horizon that is usually not considered and opens a perspective on how natural flows and changes could inform a future urbanity.

Hamang is an extraordinary ecological site. The jury therefore recommends to take the strongest aspects of the project - the river's changing life- into the further debate of the site's development.

Ås

General remarks by the jury

The Municipality of Ås must during the next 25 years provide space for a doubling of its population. The reason for this significant urban development is the general growth in the Oslo region and the good transport accessibility of Ås - but it is also the expansion of the university, located in the municipality, that requires a modified view of the city. Today the city present itself as a collection of houses around a station. There has been an incipient condensation around the station, but this attempt towards densification so far only covers a few blocks. This condensation around the station not only refer to the surrounding residential areas - it is also a reception and a gateway to the university, which is located further away, and to which a significant number of students daily arrive by train.

The university was originally established as an agricultural university in the open agricultural land outside the village, but it is now expanded to a more comprehensive university complex for Life Sciences - it is planned to be further expanded in the coming years. The competition task therefore consists in developing models and strategies for how the civic urban structure and the University can be better linked together in the future, but the task also includes a more detailed treatment of the town center, on the basis of a specific block, situated close to the station.

The more dense area around the station currently has its visual and semantic center in a complex, composed of the town hall, library and cultural center. This complex forms an internal compartment that balance between having urban space character and being an urban garden that merges into more open urban landscapes. The complex is a fine example of how to create a quiet densification in a relatively open urbanization. But in the future this complex will be part of a much closer urbanization and are thus challenged on both meaning and context.

The specific block designated as a kind of test example for how the closer urbanization can be organized and articulated is located diagonally offset relative to the City Hall complex - and along the railroad.

The block today includes buildings which form a time-catalog of the city and points to scale and context as architectural challenges. Closest to the town hall are two smaller wooden buildings, designated as valuable



cultural heritage. Furthest away from the town hall is a newer commercial building, containing a supermarket on the ground floor and offices on the floors above.

This block has to be developed as the first and serve as a model presenting how a future, dense Ås can be structured, programmed and articulated. At the same time the proposal for the designated block must indicate how to create a more coherent urban structure, which can take a more important position in the regional city.

It has been a challenge for many participants to develop proposals, which have compelling bid for greater coherence and a relevant understanding of the time dimension in the development process for the whole urban area – and at the same time manage to come up with convincing bid for the organization and design of the specific urban block. But there are also a number of very fine proposals that manage to identify strategies and structural forms of long-term development and present precise architectural bid for the designated block, its close context and the urban spaces.

Winner; (WX781) En, to, tre; rødt lys!

This entry is an intelligent approach to a complex site. The proposal has managed on the one hand to create a frame for the development and on the other hand it shows awareness that urban planning today is not about designing and controlling but about reacting and adapting to the unpredictable future. This is materialized with a literal 'frame' construction that 'will embrace an open field of possibilities'. This strong gesture of 'framing' creates a new civic dimension and identifies the space of the future development. The frame idea contains also poetic interpretations reminding to the concept of paradise, a fenced garden.

The project proposes a development in phases. The first phase of the proposal integrates the existing buildings that might be altered in order to incorporate new additions. The jury found it very positive that the plan can deal with the existing buildings of the area. After this, two more steps are described as possible future scenarios, with different levels of density transforming the site eventually into a covered space with some open air patios.

At the larger scale the project answers in a logical way, reinforcing first the city centre to make use of the existing resources and the proximity to the station. The link with the university is first materialized with an improved system of public transportation and in future phases with the progressing densification of this east-west axis, all with a careful preservation of agricultural areas, what the designer describes as 'agricultural courtyards'.

Although the plan argues that in Ås there is a tradition of 'object placed in the landscape' and uses this logic to position the new buildings in the framed 'field of possibilities', the project lacks a deeper reflection of the structure and character of the public space, that appears as the room left out by the buildings. The project could also elaborate more in the different functioning in summer and winter.

In general, in spite of these points that the Jury finds easy to accomplish in future development, the project makes a very interesting 1st prize for Ås. It shows a good understanding of the conditions, the context, the program and it is also able adapt and evolve during the development process while keeping its strength and character.



Runner up; (UF510) Hortus Conclusus

The 'Hortus conclusus' project is based on a clear and well-articulated spatial strategy to strengthen the relationship between university campus and Ås town centre by means of a green cultural corridor offset by a well-defined- grid structured- high density housing strip. Within the wider area strategy the project site becomes an anchor point between the two new proposed axes of the town and is envisaged as an inward orientated, car free, Hortus conclusus. The jury admires the compositional qualities of this proposition ('a jewel box of urbanity') in which the various separate urban elements, including the two historic wooden buildings, are unified by a peripheral garden wall into a new urban ensemble. The integration of various building volumes and typologies grouped around the walled garden as well the vertical articulation of a proposed hotel tower creates a cohesive urban landmark. The jury welcomes the subtle reference to the modernistic aesthetics of Tandberg paintings as inspiration for the proposed urban figure-ground configuration. As much as strong aesthetics are appreciated the jury is less convinced that such approach, due to lack of programmatic flexibility, can be regarded a valid strategy for implementation. Serious doubts was placed on the overtly hermetic character of the walled Hortus conclusus concept, which will, the jury argues, limit the interconnectivity with the surrounding urban and green areas and as such, contrary to the suggested spatial strategy, isolate instead of integrate the new proposed urban ensemble. Also the single floor plan arrangement of the proposed hotel tower was questioned in terms of its economic viability.

Special mention; (BW223) All eyes on Ås

With reference to the "Quadrivio degli Angeli" in the classic city plan of Ferrara – an intensified cross section with four strong characters of urban distinction and complementary programming, aims to generate and structure future urbanization of ÅS.

The grid strategy operates in two scales – on the European site itself and extended along two axes running North-South and East-West. Along the residential urban axis parallel to the train tracks, a physical and programmatic densification of the existing urban fabric is proposed. The axis connecting the Centre and University is strengthened with a band of offices, hotels, conference, university facilities and an innovation centre.

The project argues that the vitality of student life in Ås operates on a local community level while the University itself belongs to a world scale of research and business. Combining these potentials the site is proposed as a SHOWCASE of Ås to the outside world, "intensifying locally – expanding world wide". The Local Food Research and Innovation Hub – promoting Art, Trade, University and Community, bear the promise of a vibrant place where commuters and tourists, students and locals meet.

The jury supports the strategic vision and commends the diagrammatic precision of the proposal.

We find the site well suited for such a programmatic hub in Ås, addressing program, structure and strategy for public space with one clear gesture. It is considered a sustainable quality that the project takes a position of adaptive reuse and incorporates all the existing buildings on site, with the potential of responding well to needs of the different property owners. The grid allows for an easy phasing which would make the plan robust and flexible.

The jury feels that the project could have benefited from a similar flexibility allowing a higher density on the site itself – especially for the student housing area and the northern part of the site.

Despite its Nolli plan potentials, the 4 public spaces remains a bit schematic and underdeveloped as a



sequence of believable urban experiences with the high ambitions for activities the text suggests. However, we see that these are elements that could be part of a further development of an otherwise strategically strong and beautiful scheme.

Special mention: (WR530) Straight line

The project gives physical expression to a proposed strong linkage between the university and town by means of an elevated linear structural element composed of a hybrid urban program of student housing, cycle lane and public space. This singular linear element is envisaged as a series of linked communities, terminated towards a new mixed-use high-density city centre which is elevated above a big public square. The jury was impressed by the conceptual and provocative strength of the proposed linear structure which not only expresses connectivity between town and university but also articulate and frames the agricultural in-between landscape in one grand but ultimate playful, gesture. The jury is less convinced of the scale and configuration of the proposed high-density city centre. The original lightness of the proposed straight line here becomes overtly metropolitan and arguably too alien in relation to the actual site and its surrounding sub-urban context.

Beatriz Ramo
Chairman of the Norwegian European 12 Jury

THE NORWEGIAN EUROPEAN 12 JURY:

Beatriz Ramo (chairman) Architect, STAR Strategies+Architecture, Honorable mention European 11, (ES)

Christer Larsson Director of Planning, Malmö, (SE)

Eelco Hoofmann Landscape Architect, Gross. Max. (NL)

Gro Bonesmo Architect, Space Group, (NO)

Jens Kvorning Director/Professor, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen (DK)

Juan Elvira Architect, Murado Elvira, winner European 9, (ES)

Sabine Müller Architect, SMAQ, winner European 9, (DE)



AWARDED TEAMS

ASKER

WINNER:

Project Code: VW438

Project Title: KALEIDOSCOPE

Miia-Liina Tommila,
Emmi Keskisarja
Silje Klepsvik
Tone Megrunn Berge

Collaborators

Vegard Aarseth

Minnamari Aleksandra Nurmi

Noora Aaltonen

Ossi Petteri Keskisarja

RUNNER-UP

Project Code: BW280

Project Title: OLA K ASKER

keine Namen

SPECIAL MENTION

Project Code: OR775

Project Title: The Leaf

U67

Ludovico Centis

BÆRUM

WINNER:

Project Code: XQ245

Project Title: Social riverscape

TEAM URNES AND STOREMYR

(Sigrid Urnes and Hanna Haukøya Storemyr)



RUNNER-UP

Project Code: OZ976

Project Title: ELASTI-CITY

Elisabeth Sjødahl

Contributor: Alejandro Navarrete

SPECIAL MENTION

Project Code: CW895

Project Title: HAMANG RIPARIAN ZONE

MOXON ARCHITECTS

ÅS

WINNER:

Project Code: WX781

Project Title: En, to, tre: rødt lys !

UGO

(Luca Moscelli,
Angelo Renna and
Davide Sacconi)

RUNNER-UP

Project Code: UF510

Project Title: Hortus conclusus

laura alvarez architecture

Office Jarrik Ouburg

SPECIAL MENTION

Project Code: BW223

Project Title: All eyes on Ås

HOMU

(Filippo Nanni,
Lucia Zamponi)



SPECIAL MENTION

Project Code: WR530

Project Title: STRAIGHT LINE

FRANCÉS+SASTRE ARQUITECTOS

(Simón Francés Martínez,

Judith Sastre Arce)

PRESELECTED PROJECTS

ASKER:

BW208 - Ola K Asker

OR775 - The Leaf

VW438 - Kaleidoscope

JW651 - Dicaremark

JK906 - Farmers Boulevard

BÆRUM:

OZ976 - Elasti city

CW895 - Hamang Riparian Zone

XQ245 - Social Riverscape

JX090 - CITYclips

MZ777 - Digital Forest

ÅS:

TO463 - Norwegian wood

EE016 - Ås ORSP

ZI107 - Share Ås

RG519 - Ås Common

GM905 - Keep in touch

UF510 - Hortus Conclusus

WX781- en, to, tre: rødt lys!

RB513 - CLAB

WR530 - Straight line

YD191 - Under the Sky

BW223 - All eyes on Ås