



European SE

JURY REPORT

EUROPAN 13 – SWEDEN

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LUND

The Lund site is physically close to but mentally distant from the historic center. Its current profile and assets are its proximity to sports facilities and recreation areas of great local significance. There is also an existing and partly empty Business Park that offers potential for re-programming or re-development.

The competition is triggered by the fact that a new station along the Malmö-Copenhagen railway will appear within the site. Although there is no development pressure on the site today, there is a need for a vision to inform future choices: Where to locate the station? What to do with the existing Water Treatment Plant? How to develop and benefit from recreation areas and sports facilities? How to realize the potential of the Business Park?

The site is very challenging. Its existing assets plus the future station hold great public potential, but at the same time it is not easy to connect to the existing infrastructural fabric. The site is both split by the railway and blocked from surrounding main roads by existing housing development.

A successful programmatic diversity is tied to the level of integration within the greater context. The jury therefore appreciated the many diverse approaches to these issues, from dense developments with elevated tracks to modest solutions advocating a less intense integration.

The jury also appreciated that many proposals were focusing on process. Often, however, these were rather vague or provided little guidance for the early strategic decisions that are crucial for this site.

Although the jury found the general quality of the proposals good, it could not find one single answer that excelled in all aspects of the problem. Instead the jury has opted to compile a package of awarded projects to complement each other.

Winner, BB157 – Culture Symbiotic

Culture Symbiotic suggests a sensible way of creating continuity between old structures and new additions. The project's strength is that it interacts with all surrounding areas to create its own identity, and that it, with a clear gesture, marks the station as a major asset in bringing the different characters together. The station roof is the centrepiece of the plan; an infrastructural device creating an abundance of space to host "culture" (as in non-profit, small-scale initiatives) and at the same time linking the different sides of the track physically as well as visually.

The plan presupposes that a creative energy will be attracted without discussing mechanisms behind such development. The ambitions seem to take long-term commitments for granted rather than investigating what seeds to plant. The jury asks for more realistic and sustainable ideas on how to invite future actors of the area. The concept of complementing Lund's identity with a creative centre and to seek leverage with the student population in the city is commendable but the ambition will have to stand economic challenges.

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To invite the property owner of the industrial estate in being a part of the area's development, to reuse all existing structures of this area, and to demand development of public space from private property owners, are powerful suggestions. The question of How remains and the project represents a strategy focusing primarily on the format or frame rather than methods of development. It will be a challenging but interesting task to realize the giant station of public life. Core ideas of using social activities as a means to connect the areas around the station could be influential also with significantly scaled infrastructure investments.

Culture Symbiotic is a winning proposal that offers a firm base for further development of a master plan for the area. A massing strategy based on well-known typologies creates a safe and steady step in the continuous development of Lund's urban fabric. Programming and ideas for the realization process are vague, as is the degree of adaptability. The project instead deals with urban form and spatial sequence in a classical manner.

Runner up, FO382 – Monster Planning

The proposal celebrates an organic and very gradual approach to urban development by focusing entirely on the underlying processes through which diverse human interests and expressions come together to shape the built environment. Monster Planning outlines a way of understanding this process, as well as a set of concepts through which to look at it and support it. The project well represents an attempt to perform the on-going research that open ended and publically accessible planning processes are bound to be.

The gradual organic approach makes particular sense at the Lund site since this is not in fact a priority development site for the city. Rather, the development plans at the site have been forced on to the agenda by the construction of the station, which is itself motivated by congestion on the rail lines, as opposed to perceived urban needs. The project works with planning directly linked to time, from the immediate step that can be taken tomorrow, towards acting in the completely unpredictable future. This is the project's strength and at the same time becomes the main contradiction of this reasoning. Can we plan without forming a plan? The way Monster Planning underlines the importance of not falling into a default top-down approach is particularly useful for this context.

The conceptual approach is well argued. Yet, the level of abstraction of the overall proposal is likely to make the proposal difficult to implement. In spite of multiple examples of very concrete activities, a description of the process management challenges is lacking. There is also little evidence of the flows of people in the area as well as of the broader interest in exploring the area, which would presumably be a precondition for the success of the proposal. The proposal is rewarded as an interesting and important intellectual perspective, rather than an easily implementable project.

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Special mention, IB702 – PLAYFUL PATH!

This modest proposal appears traditional at first, but has interesting ideas. It focuses on the southern part, not making itself dependent on synergy with the other side. It positions the station to strengthen the existing Klostergården centre, making it a robust initial development working well both independently and in unison with northern developments.

It utilizes the parking demand to create a planted sound barrier along the railway. This distributed parking also supports distributed patches of green sport fields among the traditional housing blocks. The regional sports node makes good use of public transportation and creates a complementary flow to the daily commuters, an interesting idea fit for this site. It's refining the already existing profile of the area in a very visible way, and it's making local residents and regional sport teams visible to each other, thereby actually addressing the difficult issue of segregation.

Special mention, OP022 – Frontside

The brave vision in the *Frontside* proposal suggests a new urban hub that will give Lund three centres; Brunnshög, the historic city centre and Lund Källby.

The project suggests a collaborative strategy for introducing density and diversity in the building blocks and at the public spaces. Rules are guaranteeing attractive meeting places in the corners of the blocks, mixed functions along the pedestrian main street, an active ground floor that connects activities inside the buildings with activities in the public spaces outside. The rules also guarantees that all blocks are linked to public spaces, retains rainwater, provides itself with energy from renewable recourses and are active in a shared economy. The plan and the images proposed gives a positive view on the integration of the commercial spaces and restaurant, necessary to realize the neighbourhood in the way it is advertised by the project.

The new urban hub is linked to the Öresund region, the historic city centre of Lund and to the local neighbourhood square at Klostergården. The agricultural landscape and the new city front are linked by an urban wetland. A mesh field around Höje å, with new lakes and plants that purifies the water, designed for recreation and ecosystem services. This master plan dares to combine the open regional landscape with infrastructure and building units. The intention and the promise of a vivid urban neighbourhood is clearly expressed in the images and perspectives. In that way it is a well-defined suburbia, as a hopeful model.

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NACKA

This site has been closed to the public for 60 years, yet highly visible with characteristic oil cisterns right at the shoreline. Cisterns removed, its main asset is a dramatic topography with extraordinary views and immediate access to the Nyckelvikens Nature Reserve. But it's also a natural cul-de sac, hidden in difficult terrain behind existing housing areas, difficult to connect to existing urban fabric.

Many proposals were based on the geometry of the existing cisterns: as voids, as new cistern-like shapes, or as actual historic relics given new purpose.

However, the jury found few convincing examples of this approach. The values rarely merited the inconveniences.

Other proposals focused on typologies, although rarely developing new ideas about shared economies. The jury found that the insular character of the site makes a vibrant 24/7 mixed-use urbanity unlikely. The traditional city block, with capacity to resolve noise issues and to allow intensely private and intensely public spaces to coexist, is therefore not self-evident. Structuralist proposals based on extensive geometrical grids were common, but tended to have negative impact on exterior spaces. The jury tended to find more quality in proposals based on collage-like assemblies of different typologies.

Some proposals aimed at creating a public focus deep into the site, assuming an invented attractor program. Others instead aimed at creating a memorable entry space to organize the scheme around, which the jury considered a more robust approach.

The jury found the general quality of the proposals somewhat disappointing, with some of the most promising ideas being the least developed. It has strived to find a winner with a sound and flexible basic organization with the potential to be complemented by ideas from other awarded proposals.

Winner, FL549 – Lucker

The proposal Lucker offers a master plan grid that can be of beneficial use for the municipality of Nacka, without major adjustments. The proposal permits to build in stages and suggests a planning strategy that encourages integration. The concept addresses the two most demanding issues of this location; how to integrate a peripheral site in an existing urban fabric and how to generate a structure close to an exposed waterfront, on the edge of nature.

To integrate the site, the proposal suggests a direct ferry link to the city of Stockholm and public busses to the new subway, through nearby residential areas via a new bridge. The proposal promotes pedestrian streets and walking tracks, collects parking facilities below ground level and puts great emphasis on public spaces. Several shared meeting places are introduced, such as a public bath and a boat jetty. The proposed structure allows for a layer of small scaled meeting places and public pocket parks.

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Lucker introduces monumental memorials of recent activities by suggesting round shapes as reminders of the cisterns. The typology along Skönviksvägen allows to be elaborated into a green link between the nature reserve and the seaside, which can offer a green front location for housing and hold ecosystem services. The Lucker master plan allows a high degree of exploitation and opportunities for businesses, enterprises, community buildings and housing to enrich each other. This strategy may overcome the non-central position of the site and make it a sociologic embedded neighbourhood, a part of Nacka.

Runner up, CV555 – The Ends of the City

“The resilience of urban form in time” is the key phrase of this proposal, suggesting a dramatic assemblage of typologies. The landscape formation is the starting point of the design. Ten plateaus are identified and given different characters. Flexible large scale buildings with ground floors for multiple uses, suburban small houses and sheds for public or commercial uses are organized along a green spine with soft grounds for playing. The proposal offers programmed spaces as well as shelters for informal and temporary use. The buildings are organised to support everyday activities as well as sublime and ceremonial events. The building types are chosen to hold public institutions and shared spaces in cosy enclosures and monumental voids.

The proposal explains the design process and the reasons behind form decisions. By evaluating bodies of buildings in rows, clusters and as small single units on a topographic model the different building types are located at the landscape plateaus in structures that mimics appreciated urban patterns. This conceptual master plan is in itself a statement to the debate about future urbanism. It tries to present the typologies of the past as possible fragments of the future.

The new silhouette has a strong visual expression towards the waterfront and replaces the former industrial image with an even stronger visual impact. The proposal marks Nacka but offers at the same time an everyday shoreline with small scaled sheds. The everyday and the monumental are presented side by side in the End of the City proposal.

Special mention, AX321 – The Hanging Gardens City of Bergs

Hanging Gardens City of Bergs is a rich and cheerful proposal with all boxes ticked. The ambition is to create a structure that will ensure a demographic mix and vibrant public life in this outpost location. The urban development is set out to be an ongoing process and the project creates a structure of negotiation through a role-play. The approach of battling to reach land subdivision agreements is stimulating and point toward new participatory planning tools.

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The proposal's many interesting ideas have been caught in a conventional urban grid that is ill suited at this site. The innovation of the Urban Act Game will gain from being tested and represented in a less fixed frame. The structure is perceived as being static in a way that limits all adaptability beyond the plan itself. The thorough analysis and clear idea about procurement process promises something else.

The many prime locations with spectacular views cause a surprising amount of introvert space. Retaining walls will be a dominant feature of the landscape and brings an interesting discussion on integration of city – nature.

Special mention, DG634 – Decks and String

This project responds to the suggested large-scale approach by adding another layer on top of the given plateaus. This creates an underlying service floor or a possible docking station to the new area. The project represents an interesting way of dealing with the dramatic nature of the site in superimposing a new order that would contrast and expose the existing. The approach acknowledges and builds on (metaphorically) the blindness of the inaccessible industrial land.

The project can be understood as an extension of the common/ public all the way into the foundation and thus suggests a brave expansion of the city's role in new development. The adaptability of the project is found in the generic layout of the "decks". The project is awarded for its conceptual level rather than the more detailed investigations.

Special mention, IV166 – New Cityfront closer to nature

The proposal makes equal attempt to create nature connections as to linking the new area to the surrounding city and built structures. However interesting, the approach becomes a problem to itself and the jury is not convinced by the busy life depicted in the renderings. The attempted urbanity has to be adaptable to the actual conditions and the relation city – nature has to be investigated in order for the many qualities of the competent master plan to fall into place.

Even though it is unclear how to implement the large-scale development asked for, the proposal resolves topographical issues in a realistic and effective way. Many viable ideas of green qualities are created to support the concept of integrating dense urbanity with natural landscapes. The proximity to nature is undoubtedly an asset of the site and to break its isolation, yet keeping its qualities, will be one of the major tasks in developing the area.

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Special mention, WC515 – ABC-X

This proposal was awarded because it offered an alternative way of looking at site. A limited set of rules are proposed to be imposed on the site, to generate the physical layout in an almost mechanistic way. Even though the rules are based in fairly typical planning objectives, they still produce an interesting twist of perspective that ends up with both intriguing public spaces with sea views and fascinating typologies. For instance, a dense housing carpet covers even the steepest parts of the site, ending up with a partly top-loaded typology to handle the infrastructure. Potentially, it achieves a very high density, and it was an open discussion within the jury what kind of economy such a development would generate.