

EUROPAN 16 – BELGIUM - JURY REPORT

1) JURY COMPOSITION :

A – Urban and architectural command

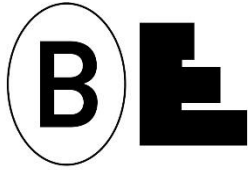
- Valerie Depaye : (BE) Director <https://eriges.be/> (Régie Communale Autonome de Seraing)
- Hardwin Dewever: (BE) Director of the Urban Renewal Projects division at <https://www.agvespa.be/>
- Nel Vandevanet : (BE) Project Director of the <https://www.brussels.be/architectural-and-artistic-heritage>

B – Urban and architectural conception

- Carlos Arroyo : (ES) Architect – Member of the Scientific Committee of European Europe
- Lisa De Visscher: (BE) Architect – Artistic Director of A+ of <https://www.a-plus.be/>
- Pol Esteve Castello : (ES) Architect - co-founder of office GOIG London & Madrid
- Laura Falcone: (IT) Architect & landscape architect- cofounder of Due Di Quattro - <http://www.2d4.eu/> - E11 Winner Creative process-projects to regenerate inhabited milieus
- Philippe Rahm: (CH) Architect – teacher - founder of <http://www.philipperahm.com/>

C – Personality

- Eric Corijn: (BE) Cultural Philosopher and social scientist - Director of the Brussels Academy



europan.be

2) JURY REPORT – PART I - 1st Jury: 08 & 09 Oct 2021

08 Oct : Tour bus - 3 Sites visits (Aalst, Namur, Brussels) and meeting with local representatives and local authorities.

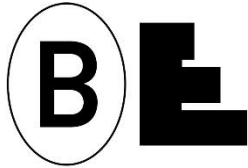
- On each of the three site visits, the jury members were received by the local representatives and authorities, who explained their concerns, and then guided the group throughout the sites.
- The jury members received by mail all informations about the registered projects on the European Europe Platform.
- On the day of the sites visits, the jury members received a printed folder including for each site:
 - o The brief (A4)
 - o Every project's Communication Files (A4)
 - o A project analyze Excel Table (A3) with all projects underlined through the criterias for each site according to its brief.
These criteria's are no meant as a checklist to be filled by points.
They are meant as guidelines to appreciate the different projects according to the multiple issues linked with the E16 definition of Metabolic and Inclusive Vitalities, and the sites representatives expected issues relayed in the brief and all documents published on the European Europe platform.

09 Oct : Jury at Architects House – 21 Rue Ernest Allard – 1000 Brussels

Introduction :

- o Election of the jury president : Carlos Arroyo, member of the “European Europe” scientific committee, is designated as the president of the jury.
- o Proposal of the methodology by the Belgian secretariat:
 - o The Belgian Secretariat will present all the proposal to the jury and the sites representatives, on 3 A0 panels and several slides presentation.
 - o The Belgian Secretariat has done a first technical analysis. According to this, all projects fulfilled the E16 criteria (see hereunder) in different ways. As a consequence, all projects can be presented.
 - o The presentation will be followed by a proposed selection by the site representatives.
 - o This proposal will be followed by a discussion between the jury members and the site representatives.
 - o In the afternoon, the jury will separately deliberate all projects and make its first selection, taking into consideration the selection by the sites representatives, with no obligation to stick to it.

The jury members agree on this methodology.



europan.be

Agenda of presentations and exchanges with sites representatives:

- 10:00 am : AALST :
- 11:00 am : BRUSSELS :
- 12:00 am : NAMUR

Jury debate: 2:00 – 6: 00 pm

- The jury members deliberate on all projects with the assistance of the Belgian European Secretariat.
- **First selection** of projects to be presented at the San Sebastian international Forum of Cities and Juries
- The following notes summarize the points debated by the jury for each of the selected projects on each site.

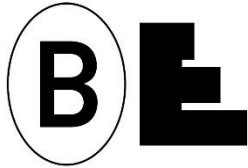
AALST:

- **IY134 Living Heritage**

- Goes into depth as well as large scale, details and broad in themes, strong proposal overall
- Proposes to build an association, nicely phased planning worked out down to the building level!
- Inspiring catalog for interventions along the entire quays, organized by investment, opp. and FAR
- Is strongly committed to nature inclusive design (fauna, flora, people)
- Convincing figures (41% built-up)
- Solar panels and water drainage scheme
- Already ideas about image quality, character architecture, 6x6 expandable grid
- Network of stakeholders and users mapped, both in plan and in organizational chart

- **UT168 Tragel in Transition: Integrated Framework for a Circular District**

- Strong with vegetation and water
- Tragelweg becomes crossable
- Land bank methodology
- Dense but enough public space
- Involving Tragel Noord
- Space under viaduct activated
- Concept of metabolism
- Maker's district combined with care
- Well-defined public space
- Plenty of room for participation
- Heritage central place. Using it to frame public spaces



europan.be

- **OX212** a Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall

- Large effort to create new connections + concerns with accessibility
- Very ambitious
- Responds to the question of the harbor feeling
- Interesting repertoire of ideas, to be studied carefully
- Innovative catalogue of natural and industrial interventions and systems
- Applauding the creativity

- **FW496** EVER-CHANGING-AALST

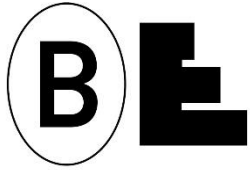
- Nice graphs, fantastic illustrations, comic-like
- Limited program elaboration
- Good mobility scheme
- Buildings as facilitators of a process of developers
- Temporary uses and occupation not only about using the opportunity and matching the market needs and requests but larger regarding the image of the city of Aalst
- Structure by streets
- Good mobility scheme
- Flexible programs, learning by doing approach
- The weakest in program, but create the tools to create new programs

| |
|------------------|
| BRUSSELS: |
|------------------|

- **ZT059** Vlaams Afrikaans Huis

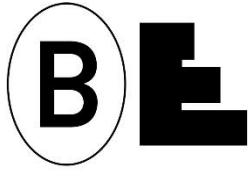
- Interesting strategies inside the building
- The jury appreciates the absence of any significant intervention on the general volume of the building
- Interesting partition of the existing complex
- Tactical principle of urbanizing spaces inside the building
- Sensory spaces in the basement
- The jury appreciates that the public use of the building is maintained
- Doubt about public accessibility of the garden above the reservoir
- The jury has doubts about the proposed programming (Flemish-african community centre) in multilingual Brussels

- **TB263** Reuse.Factory of Pieces



europan.be

- The proposal is based on the architectural qualities of the existing building.
 - The proposed programs are interesting. The jury appreciates the idea of adding a new volume that integrates different forms of housing.
 - The jury appreciates the proposal to transform the garden on the reservoir into a space dedicated to energy production.
- **XZ488 Grow 4 Brussels**
 - The jury greatly appreciated the ecosystemic approach developed in this project.
 - The jury considers the proposed programmes to be very appropriate and in line with the theme of the European 16 session.
 - The proposal for the garden above the reservoir is feasible and fits well with the needs of this dense area of the city.
 - The interventions on the building are minimal and fit well with the general philosophy of the project.
- **HY404 Architecture Center for regenerative materials**
 - The jury appreciates the possibility of the use of the ground floor for the production of mushrooms to create panels that isolate buildings
 - The humble posture of the proposal is highlighted as an essential quality of this project
 - Training center, information center, ... and all the programs start from the qualities of the existing building
 - Raises awareness about the change that we need / not business as usual but something else: a disruptive solution/ Turning CIVA into a research center for a carbon traffic building materials is a great idea/ is a good transition/ it gives continuity/ it can be a temporary use also/
 - CIVA today is a funny situation: a bit hidden but the building is public and yet the neighborhood is not made for this public function
- **TY791 LE VIDE**
 - The jury appreciates the idea of creating three different voids, inside of the building. Those three voids create opportunities for the natural light to come inside and allows to develop different kind of dialogue with nature.
 - The jury appreciates the new visual relation that is created between the rue de l'Ermitage et the nature localized above the reservoir.
 - The localization and the distribution system of the new programs allows the building to interact with public space on all sides



europan.be

NAMUR:

• **EK539 Le sol, Le roseau et le cycliste**

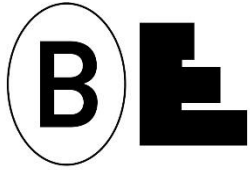
- The Meuse river Valley carved by water on different scales and the successive mobility infrastructures from the river (economic) to the new European velo-route, through rail tracks and road tracks. A paradoxal landscape.
- Based on the voids that link the center of the place to its build and unbuilt environment
- The large 5000m² hangar and its direct environment for Bike programs + link with other equipment's in the close environment (Rugby and horses)
- Collective housings under cooperative organization in the existing buildings + extensions
- Precise and sensible analyses of the natural component of the landscape
- Soft programs exploiting the characteristics of the build and unbuilt existing structures
- Acupuncture process favoring new buildings on existing concrete surfaces and eventually destruction of some of these to favor renaturalization areas.
- Soft relation depending on the mineral, vegetal or water characteristics

• **FK699 Emerging Landscapes**

- The site is mainly seen as a potential water buffer in the valley
- Landscape stripe crossing the productive stripe
- Combination of a permaculture lab and local productive mixed with leisure activities
- New communities' housings spread out in compact garden rooms
- A productive stripe structures the center of the site supported by housings and leisure (biking and hiking) zones. Restaurant in the former museum
- Slow accumulation and expansion process stimulated by tourism recreation
- Agriculture and forest biotope

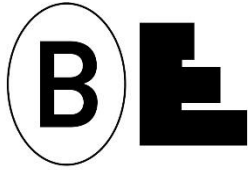
• **FU143 Porous Polygon**

- Strong study of the environment and all its equipment, mobility facilities, taking care of water and nature issues, enhancing the visual relations with the valley.
- Ecological corridors to reinforce natural landscape while assuming the infrastructural ruptures (road and rail tracks)
- Productive, farming and eating activities mixed with sport and leisure's. The bike planet seen as a societal issue according to mobility.
- The residential zones form clusters composed of multiple residential typologies varied in size and ownership.
- Strong values expressed as objectives, from carefully taking care of the existing to strong controlled developments, based on reusing the existing infrastructures
- Complete in between rural and urban programs of productive activities, agriculture, food production, housings and leisure activities



europan.be

- Clear mutation process from "pioneering" to development, accumulation and reproduction phases (up to 2045)
- Landscape approach analyzing the existing ecological corridors, crossed by the infrastructures, and the flooding zones
- **HB863 A non-binary ecology**
- Proposition to complete the existing landscape sequences beyond the site through vegetal masses and "third landscape" corridors
- Ecological continuities spread all over the sites and out of it in an attention to the neglected and abandoned areas.
- The velodrome in the existing warehouse with a superposed infrastructure to allow different uses + a learning center in the existing buildings
- 3 types of habitats & public housings : Soho (Loft like) in existing buildings, an adaptive tower that allows housings and other uses, and a Communal Farm residency
- Network of running tracks and cycle paths supported by microelements made of light structures, unsealed platforms and urban furniture's that emphasize the contact between human beings and biodiversity
- Multifunctionality in different existing and new buildings
- Slow type of mutations processes linked with "acupunctural" interventions
- Trying to avoid the binary opposition between nature and culture
- Letting concrete and new technologies to participate in the same development of the site (as part of the same strategy)
- An in between landscape, which tries to develop in different levels



europan.be

3) JURY REPORT – PART I I - 2nd Jury session: 19 Nov 2021

Introduction : Feedback from the San Sebastian international Forum of Cities and Juries by the four jury members who took part in the Forum.

Agenda of presentations and exchanges with sites representatives:

- 10:00 am : AALST :
- 11:00 am : BRUSSELS :
- 12:00 am : NAMUR

The Belgian secretariat present the 1st jury selection. Some projects selected by the sites representatives are not in that selection. A discussion follows about these. The jury will consider them in its deliberation.

Jury debate: 2:00 – 5: 00 pm

- The jury members deliberate the 1st jury selected projects and those mentioned by the site representatives, with assistance from the Belgian European Secretariat.
- **Final selection of projects:**

| |
|---------------|
| AALST: |
|---------------|

Winner: OX212 a Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall

- The jury appreciates the solid intellectual background, demonstrated by the texts that accompany the drawn ideas. Stemming from the concept of the 3 ecologies, the project establishes a definition of nature as driver for design.
- Strong aim to set an environmental infrastructure: starting up the process with an infrastructure of irrigation, in strong contrast with attitudes of the past that might start e.g. with traffic infrastructure.
- Has potentiality to involve other designers in the process: the proposal brings forward the idea of Curating Urbanism
- Valuable tools to move from zoning to hybridization
- Strong proposal to liberate the ground for activity - although, moving forward to implementation, it will be important to gage the ambition.
- Clear statement about the infrastructural character of the existing road
- Answers the question in the brief proposing a creative waterfront development
- Detailed definition in drawings, it is clearly a proficient team
- Aalst needs something uniquely different, this project can provide it

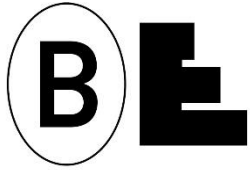
Runner Up : IY134 Living Heritage

- Interesting process & spatial proposals, based in the idea of the catalogue
- The jury appreciates the phased strategy, which includes temporary uses as the evolution is defined through participation
- The proposal introduces coproduction strategies, and the concepts reveal valuable skills to work with different stakeholders
- Holistic approach
- Care: important aspect for the future
 - o No tabula rasa
 - o Different possible future
 - o Diversity
 - o Mobility
 - o Climate
- Proves that the team can work at the scale of the area in combination with an inclusive strategy and a good understanding of the timeline
- On the other hand, the jury considers that this is a more standard waterfront development.

| |
|-------------------------|
| <u>BRUSSELS:</u> |
|-------------------------|

Winner: HY404 Architecture Center for regenerative materials

- The jury appreciates the general quality of the project, in particular the proposed programming.
- The question of sustainable materials and the energy renovation of buildings is a real challenge for existing buildings, and the radicality of this proposal can set a world-class example.
- The production of insulation panels within the building is a very interesting way of using the basements. In contrast with proposals that introduce light into the basement with substantial structural effort in order to transform the program, this team finds a program that can fit in the building as it is.
- Interventions on the existing building can therefore be kept to a minimum.
- The division of the building into three parts is interesting and demonstrates the capacity of the existing complex to adapt to new programs.
- The programs developed inside of the building are complementary to each other and work in an eco-systemic way.
- The project also integrates a reflection on the reuse of construction materials, in an interesting ecosystemic dimension.
- The graphic quality of the proposal is greatly appreciated.
- The jury notes that the proposed program can be temporary, evolving or transforming with the object of study, and the building can find another use in the future – it can be fully reversible.



europan.be

- The architectural approach regarding the existing building, as well as the proposed programming, makes of this project an extremely valuable example for the European 16 theme, Living Cities – and an example that does not rely on romanticized ideas of nature.

Runner Up: XZ488 Grow 4 Brussels

- The jury greatly appreciates the project, the proposed programming and the links that are created between the different components of the project.
- The project is intended to be comprehensive, integrating all the physical components of the environment: the building, the reservoir garden and the adjacent streets. It envisages interventions that are complementary to each other.
- Very precise inventories of the fauna and flora are carried out. The project starts with the idea of completing them.
- The jury appreciates the overall approach, as well as the fact that the public character of the building is maintained.
- The jury would like to highlight the very high graphic quality of the documents produced.

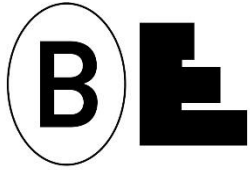
Spécial mention: OL 834 Jardin de repos

- After discussion, the jury wished to retain this project, which had not been selected in the first round.
- The project is intriguing in terms of its programming in the sense that it addresses the issue of spaces dedicated to the elderly.
- The project proposes different interventions to facilitate the use of the building.
- However, the jury regrets that the proposal does not go further, particularly in terms of developing ideas for the garden above the reservoir.

| |
|----------------------|
| <u>NAMUR:</u> |
|----------------------|

Winner : HB863 A non-binary ecology

- Highly interesting sensitivity.
- The concept of non-binary ecology can produce a world-class implementation.
- It is a solid proposal, from the global strategy to the detail. The abstract concepts of non-binary ecology are transformed into a variety of high-quality interventions, resulting in a complex and suggestive design.
- There are different intensities in the strategies throughout the plot, with sometimes extremely delicate elements, small interventions that transform neglected areas into innovative cultural



europan.be

devices – while other times it is the intensity of construction that becomes a radical statement, such as the adaptive tower, the point of maximum density.

- With its varying intensity, it covers the complete site, but with a recognizable coherence based on the ecological continuities, the network of paths and corridors, and the elements of infrastructure that follow the main routes – as well as tactical elements that punctuate the fields with a calligraphy of lines and colors.
- The jury appreciates the treatment of the velodrome in the existing warehouse, where the issues of scale are mitigated by introducing other layers of uses.
- It is a holistic project; dense, while open and not invasive.

Runner Up : EK539 Le sol, Le roseau et le cycliste

- Very attentive to the features of the environment: It lets the site speak first
- Interesting studies of the valley, the topography, and the natural cycles, as well as the possible bicycle routes at a larger scale.
- The proposal is attentive also to the detail in the site, caring for the soil – that they intend to keep permeable, and also reused as a material for the project; keeping the existing buildings – for which adaptive programs are designated; and allowing for rewilding in substantial areas.
- The jury appreciates the straightforward development plan: to focus on the cycle paths, using the strong existing car infrastructure to serve the facilities for sports, that are accommodated in the existing buildings with few extensions.

Seen and approved

Carlos Arroyo Zapatero
President of the Jury