

E17 Living Cities C C L A

Where wilderness still thrives

Welcome

Dear architects, urbanists and landscape architects! It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the international ideas competition that focuses on the topic of Caring as a new paradigm for designing our built environment.

As planners in the 21st century, the theme of Caring is central to our work. It calls upon us to expand our perspectives beyond construction and restructuring, and prioritize the well-being of the built and natural environment that already exists. By doing so, we have the potential to drive positive social, ecological, and cultural change. This involves assuming responsibility and demonstrating sensitivity towards the environment, the communities we work with, and the future generations who will live in the cities and landscapes we plan.

In this Europan session, we are delighted to be partnering with Slovenia! Together we have assembled an exciting potpourri of four sites: Vienna, Graz and Lochau in Austria and Celje in Slovenia. All four places bring to the table challenges on different scales that are looking for holistic and caring solutions.

In Lochau we find the shores of Lake Constance, a piece of land that is open to the public, free of charge and very popular. The community is looking for an inclusive and caring approach so that the fragile nature remains relevant and is interwoven with an active publicness in which everyone can participate.

Graz asks for strategies in an existing peri-urban environment where a regional infrastructure hub is planned. This will create an opportunity for a mindset shift towards active mobility.

Vienna is facing growth and is asking for a master plan for 4,500 homes. This master plan must set new standards for a livable habitat for all beings, especially in the wake of global warming, which will affect Vienna above average.

Celje has a long time challenge of dealing with a heavily polluted site that has a strategic importance for the development of the city as a whole. The task is to envisage a robust solution that is viable in sense of addressing the pollution and visionary in sense of long-term development of the city.

As young professionals, you have a unique perspective and an opportunity to shape the future of our planet. Your ideas, knowledge and eagerness to think outside the box can inspire and transform the way we design our built environment. This competition is a platform for you to showcase your talents, collaborate with other disciplines for a broad range of perspectives, and make an important contribution to the global conversation about the future of our planet.

Push the boundaries of what is possible and challenge conventional design thinking. We encourage you to approach this competition with an open mind, a spirit of curiosity and a commitment to excellence. Be bold, be creative and above all, be caring.

We wish you all inspiration and persistence in tackling this creative challenges. We look forward to seeing your innovative proposals and working with you after the competition.

Kind regards, the team of Europan Austria x Slovenia Iris Kaltenegger & Hannah Nusser Blaz Babnik & Urška Cvikl



General information

Site Representatives / Actors Involved

Frank Matt, Mayor of Lochau

Andrea Krupski von Mannsberg, head of Planning Department, City of Bregenz Thomas Blank, head of Water Management, Federal State of Vorarlberg

Team Representative

Architect, landscape architects, urbanists

Expected skills with regards to the site's issues and characteristics

Teams are encouraged to form collaboration of architects and landscape architects, with an urban planner for the reflection site.

Communication

Communication after the announcement of results on the European website

1st stage evaluation: Local Commission

with the participation of the site representatives

- Frank Matt, Mayor of Lochau
- · Andrea Krupski von Mannsberg, head of Planning Department, City of Bregenz
- Thomas Blank, head of Water Management, Federal State of Vorarlberg
- Philip Lutz, architect, professor at the University of Liechtenstein, member of advisory board to Lochau for design and planning
- Landscape architect, with local knowledge of shore and lake, >>tbc<<
- Member of the international Jury
- Member of the international Jury

2nd stage evaluation: International Jury

- Regula Lüscher (CH), urbanist, former Senate Building Director and State Secretary for Urban Development in Berlin
- Gerd Pichler (AT), spatial planner, Head of ARE Development
- Cristina Gamboa (ES), architect, principal of Lacol Barcelona
- Alessandro delli Ponti (IT), architect and urbanist, principal of kh studio
- Anna Popelka (AT), architect, principal of PPAG
- Joanna Gibbons (UK), landscape architect, principal of J & L Gibbons
- Gašper Medvešek (SLO), architect, assistant professor Faculty of Arch. Ljubljana
- · Angelika Fitz (AT), curator and author, Director of the Architekturzentrum Wien

Substitute

Radostina Radulova Stahmer (DE), architect, principal of STUDIOD3R Theresa Krenn (AT), architect, principal of studioederkrenn

EUROPAN AUSTRIA

Prize selection

Ranked selection: with Winner (€12.000), Runner-up (€6.000) and Special Mention (no reward)

Equal Selection: maximum 3 Runners-up without any hierarchy of reward (€6.000 each)

Post-competition intermediate procedure

Presentation of the rewarded teams to the site representatives, followed by a discussion/workshop.

Important dates

Questions & Answers / Update of Material

Please see and check the forum online >>www.europan-europe.eu<<

03 May 2023 National opening event

7pm, Architecture centre Vienna, Museumsquartier Meet the site partners, interactive Austrian opening event,

20 May 2023 Site visit

from 10:00

Livestream link: announcement on website >>www.europan.at<<

and instagram europan_austria Meeting point: Lochau Harbour

Registration: Please confirm your participation via email to office@europan.at

(name, number of participants, mobile number)

30 July 2023 **Deadline for entering submission**

23:59 (Paris Local time)

04 December 2023 Announcement of results

on the European and national EUROPAN website

March 2024 National award ceremony

will be announced online >>www.europan.at<<

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PROEM



"In the heart of the lush Lake Constance region, there was a delicate flower that shone like a tiny blue gem in the grass. This was the Lake Constance Forget-menot, a rare and endangered plant that had learned to adapt to the busy world around it.

Despite its fragility, the Lake Constance Forget-me-not had developed some remarkable survival skills. It knew to duck its head when children ran by, their bare feet pounding towards the water's edge. And it could hold onto a sunbather's towel, emerging the next day unscathed and unbowed by the weight of a human body.

But even with these tricks up its sleeve, the Lake Constance Forget-me-not faced a daunting challenge. The region's climate was changing, bringing hotter, drier days and less rainfall. Would this delicate flower be able to adapt quickly enough to survive in this new world?

Meanwhile, the people who lived in the area were both amazed by and protective of the little flower. They knew that they were lucky to have one of the last spots on earth where the Lake Constance Forget-me-not still thrived. And they marveled at its resilience, the way it seemed to coexist with them in symbiosis. But they also worried. The area was becoming more crowded by the day, as tourists and new residents flocked to this paradise. While they were grateful for the boost to the local economy, they wondered what impact all this development would have on the fragile ecosystem.

New houses and driveways were popping up everywhere, and more and more people were bringing cars and boats into the area.

It was a delicate balance, between progress and preservation. But the people of the Lake Constance region were determined to find a way to protect their beloved flower, and the natural world around them. They knew that their thriving paradise was worth fighting for."

The Lake Constance Forget-me-not is threatened with extinction and only grows in two places in our world. On the shores of Lake Constance and on the shores of Lake Starnberg (DE).

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Europan Workshop with villagers from Lochau

In tune with the lake and the mountains, the small village of Lochau is nestled between the basic elements of nature: water and rock. Nature is deeply rooted in the lives of its inhabitants and offers opportunities and recreation for everyone to benefit from.

Nature, such as the topography of mountainous areas, can also be a limiting factor. In the case of Lochau, it determines the mobility corridor that runs along the coast. It is a significant barrier that separates the villagers from their beloved shore. How can the spirit of the lake be experienced more directly in area beyond the tracks? And how can the mobility corridor be softened to become an integral part of the urban fabric?

The residents of Lochau are very proud to live in such a beautiful place, but are aware of the economic pressures on the area. The excellent infrastructure links Lochau with the picturesque towns of Lindau and Bregenz, both just five minutes away. This additionally contributes to making Lochau a desirable place to be. Its popularity generates a lot of traffic and attracts many people. Its uniqueness is further enhanced by the fact that the (rather short) Austrian shore of Lake Constance is in its entirety open to the public and free of charge. Lochau has a marina, a Natura 2000 nature reserve and beautiful recreational areas on the water, making it a great place where many interests meet. How to balance and negotiate between economic pressure, intensified use among different user groups, fragile ecosystems and vulnerable groups living in the area?

Vorarlberg is known for the high quality of its individual architectural projects. However, there is a discrepancy between high architectural quality and urban sprawl, which calls for new development models that embed object culture in a spatial planning and territorial context. The Vision Rheintal is one of the first major initiatives in Vorarlberg. Building on this tradition, the municipality of Lochau knew that it needed a special format to address its questions in depth - and so it turned to Europan. Lochau is looking for an architectural and landscaping solution that includes a holistic strategy and is manifested on a most precious piece of land, the coast itself. It is therefore inviting all participants to engage with a delicate sensitivity for the values of the existing and with a visionary departure for a new togetherness.

Welcome to Lochau on the beautiful Lake Constance!

One of the most beautiful places on the lake is being transformed with your help.

Our aim is to develop a space that meets the needs of all users of the harbour area, including gastronomy, and to make it a hospitable environment for people from all over. We are seeking innovative, youthful, and fresh ideas from an outsider's perspective to create a modern concept that caters to a variety of stakeholders, including children and adults, swimmers and sailors, locals, and visitors. When creating this project, we ask that you keep in mind the surrounding environment, the stunning views of the lake, our precious natural resources, and the connection to the town centre.

Our goal is to create an inclusive and enjoyable environment that is open to everyone. We implore you to let your creativity flow freely and fill the space with beauty and the essence of a new era, all while maintaining a harmonious relationship with nature.

Mayor Frank Matt

Commission after competition

The result of the Europan-competition serves as feasibility study providing the basis for the realisation of the building in a follow-up competition process. It is intended to involve nominated team in the preparation of the respective documents. The follow-up competition focusses on the concrete architectural development of the building and is open to all architects, including the nominated team if it disposes of the architectural entitlement. It is also intended to involve the expertise of the awarded team in a medium / long-term development at the urban planning level or as consultants for the overall concept of the harbour area.



yellow line indicates the project site, red line indicates the reflection site © Christian Schramm



Relation to the E17 topic

Fish species living in the Natura 2000 area Leiblach

left row from top:

xx Äsche
Bachforelle
Bachschmerle
x Barbe
Doebel
x Erlitze
x Groppe

right row from top:

x Gründling

xxx Nase

xx Schneider

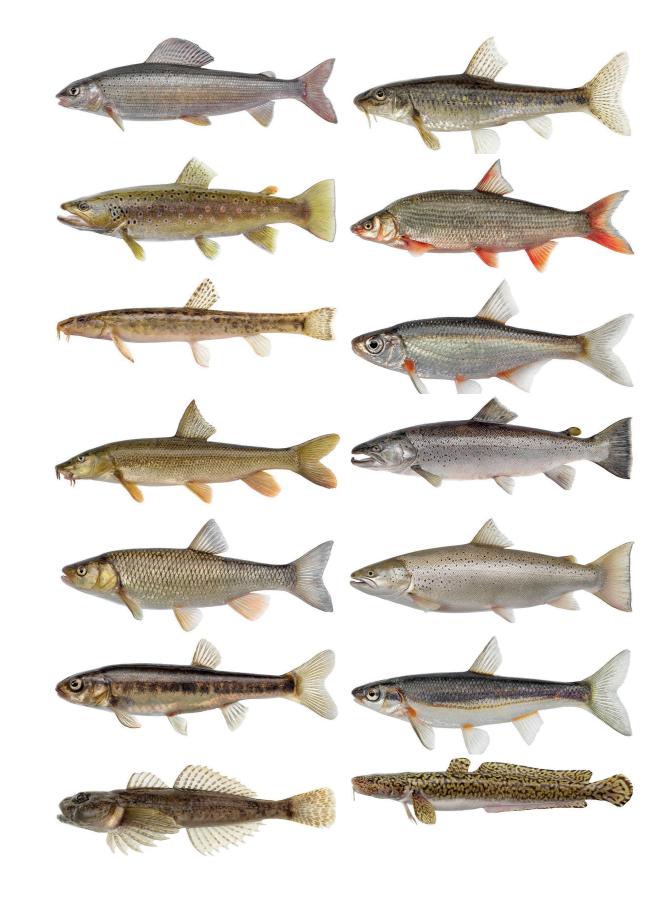
x Seeforelle Milcher

x Seeforelle Rogner

x Strömer

x Truesche

xxx threaten with extinction xx endangered x threatened



LET THE BIRDS SING

Reimaging public space as a biodiverse landscape

When it comes to our common understanding of public space, we would probably describe it as a multifunctional area for social interaction, economic exchange and cultural expression. We might think of a picturesque urban square in an old Italian town, green parks or other vibrant places we have encountered on one of our travels. In this issue, Europan invites us to question our familiar repertoire and to think about inclusion beyond the human species. How would our behaviour change and our well-being improve if we gave space and voice to all living elements? Of course, we would have to adapt and develop an understanding of such a change. This is where planners, and one could argue especially the younger generation of planners, are predestined to make a significant contribution by proposing new strategies and designing "other" spaces that are equally or even more attractive and to which everyone is instinctively drawn. Pilot projects for wholesome inclusivity are still rare and urgently needed.

The site in Lochau has everything it takes to begin this challenging exercise. It is here that the negotiation of the future discourse on how we want to deal with our planet is stripped to its core. The ingredients are:

nature meets humans

a wide variety of natural components meet a large number of human beings the needs of a wide variety of natural components meet a large number of human beings with a wide variety of interests

The complex mix is to be captured in a concrete architectural and landscape project. It is a chance to show, in a very specific object and the way how it interacts with its surrounding landscape, what it takes to shift gears. To understand how an inclusive life can become desirable for all of us. The nucleus of the small, in this case a building and a landscape, will consist of challenging questions and choices along your design process.

What is your understanding of a symbiosis that brings everything together in the pursuit of a good life for all? Do all parts have a place, or do some need to be sacrificed to make it work? Who or what do you give a voice to and who or what do you silence? Do you prioritise someone or something over another, or do you put everyone and everything on an equal footing? Do you propose a system, a framework, a set of rules, or do you initiate a process? What does publicness in tune with nature mean to you?

The following points are the 6 imperatives of the assignment. You will find out about the mix of interests and the desires of its users. Associated questions may inspire you and provide an incentive for an innovative approach. Enjoy!

Triggering common grounds

Living by the water is probably such an essential part of life that we were not surprised to hear the people of Lochau describe their waterfront as the most valuable, beautiful, and important place in Lochau. A place with which everyone identifies, a place immensely precious to everyone. Since the decision was taken to hold an Europan competition there, you can imagine how wishes and expectations have grown. Everyone sees their interest as a crucial ingredient not to be forgotten. Therefore, one of the tasks of this project is to weave and interweave a web of interests that crosses and fertilizes new and existing relationships. > How to start a process of ongoing connections where everyone can partake?

Cherishing the precious values of the existing

Three countries border Lake Constance, one of which is Austria. Its coastline is the shortest at around 28km, but it is entirely public land and open to everyone free of charge! Something rarely found in Central Europe, where private land ownership is still a symbol of success and wealth. Owning a lakefront property is probably one of the most sought-after possessions for those who can afford it. So here we are, on a shared piece of land, its access guaranteed by law ever since. Growing up and living with an understanding that access to nature is a common good and shared with others, is certainly formative. It is underpinned by respect, sensitivity and a sense of care for the existing and the vulnerable. It is this mindset that your design process can thrive on. > How to protect an inert understanding of solidarity in a place that is increasingly under pressure to become a destination for visitors and people who want to live here?

Seeing the part and the whole

Have you ever heard about "the narrow-banded broad-winged diving beetle"? Probably not. It is a beetle that is critically endangered throughout Europe. It lives in the Natura 2000 site Leiblach-valley, which is in direct vicinity of the Project Site. A delicate ecosystem around a small creek that flows into Lake Constance. The river is rich in natural features. It is of great importance for the species and habitats in and around the water — especially for rare fish, beetles, birds, flies and plants. Learning about the richness and the fragility of the Leiblach-valley, about the endangered Lake Constance Forget-me-not, all located within the Reflection Site and therefore under your responsibility, may influence your project. > In particular, it raises the question of our role as human beings: Can we see ourselves as one factor (among many) within a whole system?

Visiting a place of inspiration

The sunset is stunning! During visits, one can experience the recreational allure of the location. It suggests to imagine a spring morning filled with flowers, an autumn afternoon with mist, a crisp winter day, and a warm summer evening. Each season offers a unique atmosphere to enjoy.

Throughout the year, the location presents a variety of scenes to observe. At times it is serene, while at others it is lively, celebratory, athletic, casual, formal, enthusiastic, tranquil and active. It serves as a "stage" where the village's life unfolds.

Importantly it is a place one doesn't permanently inhabit, but visit. Everyone is a guest here. This temporary nature of the visit generates a power of inspiration. It encourages a mindset of stewardship, where visitors are not merely passive spectators but active participants. > How to strengthen the performative power of the place where creativity can unfold and become a motor for new activities?

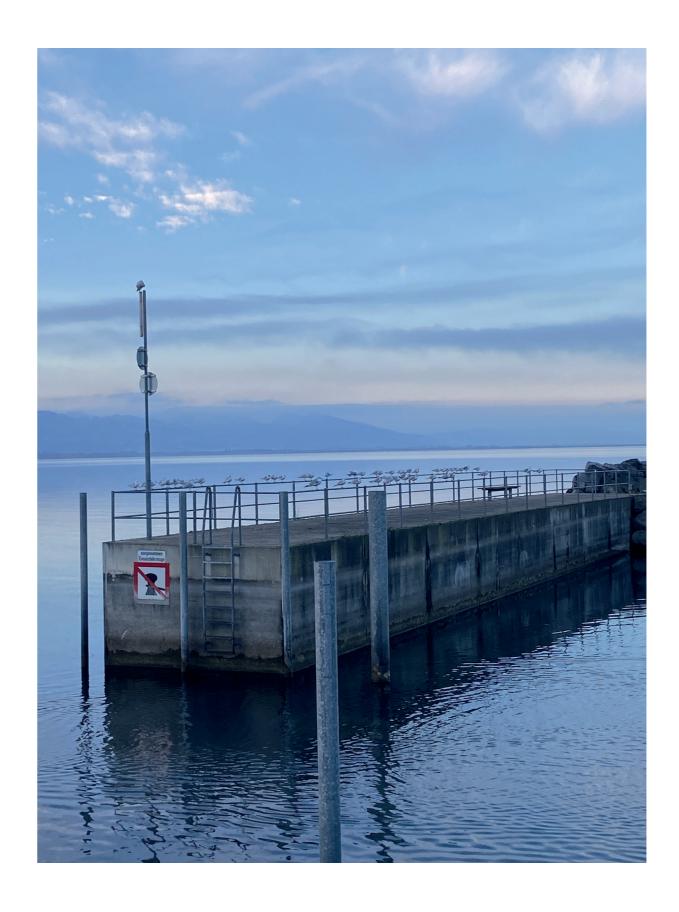
Hosting and orchestrating action

At first glance, this entry may seem to be about a small-scale architectural project. But it is so much more than that! The project offers a chance to express a new understanding of ,caring' in its physical and social manifestation. It can teach us an understanding of how to deal with resources and how to utilize local knowledge. The theory of a shared planet is to be translated into actual matter on this very volume. This paragraph emphasizes to focus on constructing the performance of an object and equipping it with functional competence, so openness is installed and a new identity created. > How to design a space that shelters inclusiveness?

set anchor

Another most crucial component of the proposal is the anchoring of the site within the context of the village itself. The village is an urban sprawl that covers the area beyond the rail tracks up to the historic centre, which lies approximately 400m above the surface of the lake.

On the 10-minute ascent through this urban patches, visual corridors open up here and there, allowing rare glimpses of the water. It is clear that the development of the centre at the foot of the mountain has historical routes, when the lake was primarily seen as an unsafe place. Now, however, a population that identifies so strongly with the lake is left without any reference or relation to it. It divides the village into a "landside" and a "seaside"; into a place to live and a place to visit. > How to create a connection and generate lasting images or "mental souvenirs" of the lake throughout the village and vice versa?

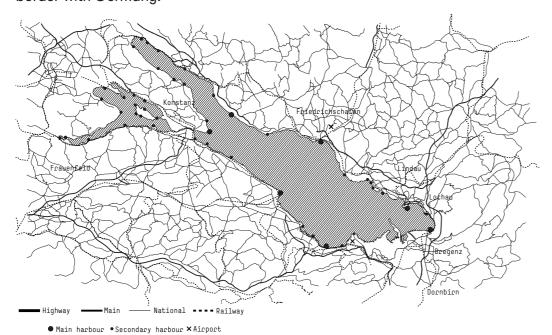




LOCHAU the village in its context

Regional context

Lochau is a muicipality of approxiamtely 7,000 inhabitants. Throughout its existence, Lochau has always been a bottleneck for travellers from north to south, from Germany to the Alps and Italy. Lochau serves as a transit area for international connections. Innsbruck, Zurich and Munich are two hours away from Lochau. In the past, foreign armies were stopped here at Klausberg. This has made Lochau an important strategic location, which has been fought over in wars and has changed hands many times over the centuries. Today it shares a border with Germany.



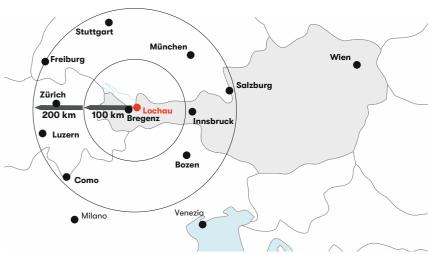
Graphic ©University Liechtenstein, Department for Architecture and und spatial development; Studio 2017 coordination Prof.Philip Lutz, Georgia Papathanasiou, Julia Kick

Urban context

The Klause has been a landmark and border marker since late antiquity. It determined the course of the Roman frontier for a very long time. "The border is one of the sharpest divides between settlements: This is where the large hamlet area of the north ends and the land of the villages, with their fundamentally different constitutions, begins [...] The hamlets were created in the 8th century as individual farms by clearing the forest. ¹South of the Klause the open countryside began and Bregenz was the first in a chain of successive villages that stretched as far as Chur. This had an impact on the economy, as the people in the



Lochau, anno 1857 ©Repro F.Josef Huber, Dornbirn



Lochau's geographic position in the european context



map showing "Claus" as the fortification of the area

Lochau area were dependent on their landlords, whereas the villages had more economic autonomy in their cooperative associations. In terms of the urban fabric, the large areas of green between the polycentric agglomeration may date back to this origin.

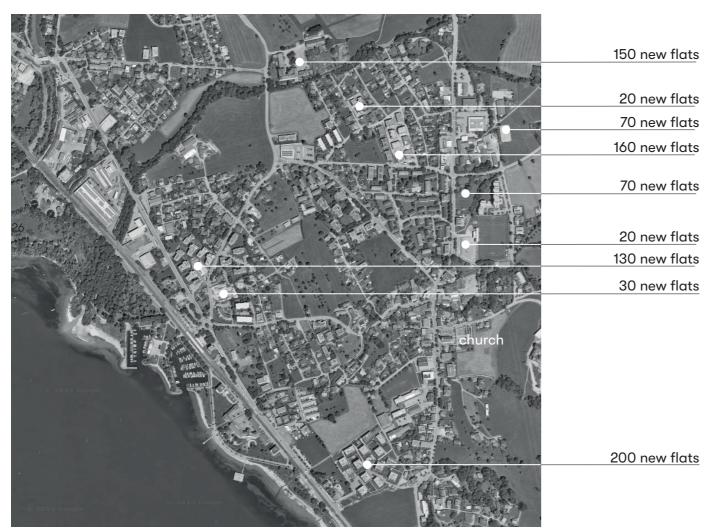
Lochau is a polycentric settlement without a well-defined village centre. Over time, its urban fabric has developed horizontally, resulting in an undefined urban sprawl. Recent developments have seen the need to densify and create new quarters around existing nodes, strengthening the polycentric urban fabric and the open green spaces between them.

The village centre is recognisable by the accumulation of single historic buildings and shops in ground floor zones along the street. It is also where most of the public facilities are located, such as the new Town Hall, school and church. However, a compact urban figure is not perceptible. "Lochau lacks public spaces and services. It sustains its existence to surrounding cities like Bregenz or Lindau. Lochau mainly offers residential uses for permanent residents as well as for tourists. There are considerable reserves of buildable land, but residential space



becomes rare and expensive because the owners of holiday apartments are competing with permanent residents."²

The municipality is aware of the economic pressure. Within four years from 2018 – 2022, 800 new flats have been approved (see graphic). Most of them are located in exiting settlements, so that the densification does not take place at the expense of green areas. However, a slowdown of the building process is envisaged and necessary.



Graphic showing new residential buildings between 2018-2022

Historic & economic context

Lochau is a place rich in history and culture. It has seen many variations of growth, industry and war over the years. Whilst many historic buildings have fallen over time, there are still a number of structures that add a unique amount of history to Lochau's character. The reason for the abundance may

2 University Liechtenstein, Department for Architecture and und spatial development; Studio brochure 2017, coordination Prof.Philip Lutz, Georgia Papathanasiou, Julia Kick



Postcard of Kaiser-Strand-Hotel with landing bridge and Lake Constance Ferry servies

be related to the port, legend has it that the Huns used to water their horses here. The first documentary mention of the port was in 1636. It is assumed that it was a transhipment point for goods and of considerable importance as the largest habour on the Lake Constance. A salt and goods warehouse as well as a flourishing timber trade (grapevine trade) contributed to its importance. This is the era when the street along the shore was built, industry, crafts and trade blossomed. In the mid-18th century, trade was transferred to Bregenz, which led to the decline of the port. It was not until a century later that steam navigation was introduced on Lake Constance, which gradually made Lochau a resort for the wealthy. The Kaiser-Strand-Hotel was built, as was the landing bridge that connected Lochau to the Lake Constance ferry service, making it a popular



Cable car to the Pfänder ©Sammlung Risch-Lau Vorarlberger Landesbibliothek



typical guest house



destination. In its heyday, sand from the North and East Seas was brought to the shores of mundane Lochau, making the hotel one of the most sought-after addresses. Tourism has always been a source of economic activity, and today Lochau has 39 accommodation providers and 40,000 overnight stays per year, with visitors staying an average of 2.5 days. Today Lochau is mainly a residential area, with most people commuting in and out of the town on a daily basis.

The remnants of industry can still be felt in the village. In recent decades, however, most of Lochau's industry has moved to Hörbranz and Lindau (DE), leaving its inhabitants to travel to Germany or the Rhine Valley, where public facilities and production are more plentiful.

The buildings of the former lime kilns, the once important sopa factory and later the Rupp cheese factory have been partly demolished or converted for residential use. One of them is the hall of the Diem factory, which has become a new neighbourhood.

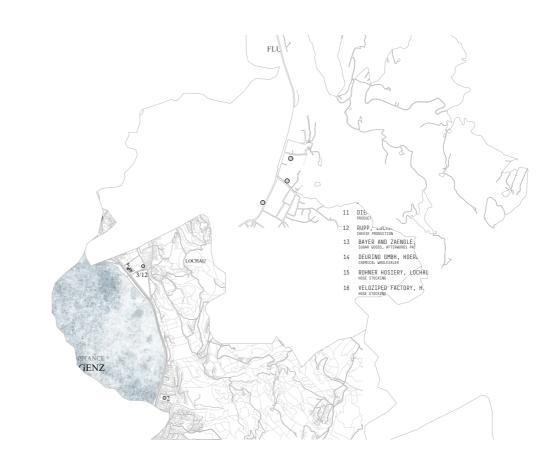
During the Second World War, the Kaiser-Strand-Hotel was used as a military hospital and later as a military caserne. It was converted back into a hotel ten years ago. Lochau's dark history is also linked to the Second World War, when the former brewery was an outpost of the Dachau concentration camp, where pharmaceutical experiments were carried out.

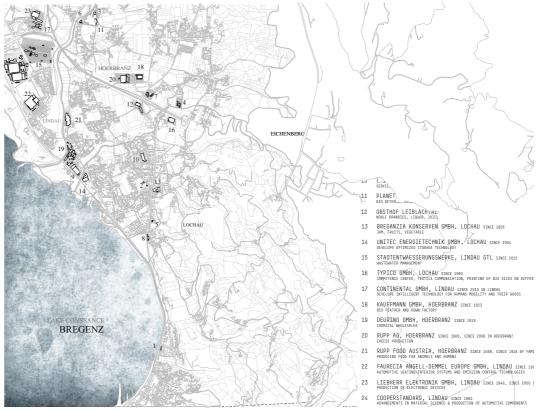




Former Diem-Werke, factory for mechanical engineering products 1963-2012 (left), now converted into residential area (right)







Industries throughout the centuries above 1800-1945, below 2017 © Anja Diener/Ennino Lardi, University Liechtenstein, Department for Architecture and und spatial development; Studio 2017, coordination Prof.Philip Lutz, Georgia Papathanasiou, Julia Kick

IV Reflection site

Train frequency:
S1 (Lindau Insel – Bludenz) every 60minutes
REX1 (Lindau Insel - Feldkirch/Schrunz) every 30minutes
3 trains stop per/h, in each direction

Bus frequency:
Bus 121 (Lochau Bahnhof – Niederstaufen) every 30-60minutes
depending on the day
Bus 126 (Lochau - Niederstaufen) every 60minutes
Bus 129 (Lochau - Lindau Reutin Bahnhof) every 60minutes
3-4 buses stop per/h, in each direction

cycle statistics (2021) number of cyclist along cycle path Bodensee passing Lochau dates chosen at random

spring

21.03.2021 = 566 2.04.2021 = 2,104

09.05.2021 = 3,992

summer

21.06.2021 = 4,033

10.07.2021 = 6,782

03.08.2021 = 3,551

(peak) 21.08.2021 = 7,747

autumn

23.09.2021 = 3,865

17.10.2021 = 2,518

19.11.2021 = 326

winter

21.12.2021 = 162

20.02.2021 = 1,404

05.03.2021 = 197

The "pipeline" project, which has generously enlarged the cycle path along the shores of Lake Constance, is set to surpass the 10,000 mark.

The pipeline is due to open in June 2023.



ARCHIPELAGO OF CONNECTIONS

The strategic area covers about 50 hectares and includes the stretch of land that runs from the lakeshore to the centre of the village, about 500 metres up; it is a land of urban sprawl, an archipelago of entities, wedged between two poles of attraction (shore and centre). These are hardly connected and divided by a main road and the railway line. Because of the topographical situation, there are visual links to the lake upon ascent here and there. In reality, however, the two poles don't "communicate" with each other. The village, with its beauty and unique location, seems torn between two identities. How, then, to make use of the strengths and dynamics of the other? How to sow memories from one to the other, so that they become a tangible whole?

The stretch of land between the two attractions is the most critical component of this equation. It must be understood as an archipelago in its own right. Its diverse fabric offers local specificities on a micro scale. It must act as an interface, leveraging its own resources to serve as a mediator between the two poles. In doing so, how can its own potential be fertilised in such a way that the reflection site itself becomes the desired component that guides from place to place?



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reflection site (dashed) and project site (continous), with centre (circle) in urban context © Google Earth

Existing framework and it's potential

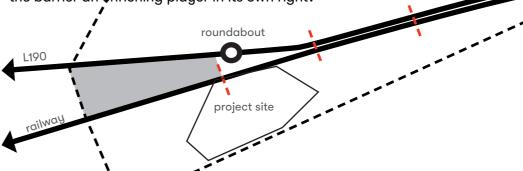
The barrier

The rural road "L190" and the railway line are at the same time a caesura and a connection. They act as a barrier but also hold the crossing points to the lake. It is a problem zone but at the same time it is an opportunity.

The L190 is a highly trafficked road all year round. It is particularly busy in the summer, with frequent traffic jams at weekends, mainly due to the arrival and departure of holidaymakers in the area. Around Lochau the street keeps looking like a classic rural road that you would simply drive through. It is mostly back-side impressions you get upon passing, looking at high fences, delivery zones, garage entrances or houses that are set back far from the road. A pretty round-about with trees and natural greenery marks the central point of crossing in the village. This is where Lochau's railway station is located and where all the village's roads meet. Currently, there is nothing special to attract the attention of someone unfamiliar with the area. A new project is underway redesigning the forecourt of the Station and the bus terminal, with an emphasis on improving the area for pedestrians and cyclists.

The railway line runs in parallel to the road making the barrier even more substantial. Next to the passage at the station you find one narrow underpass and two overground crossings within the entire municipal district of Lochau.

Also, in the Lochau area the two mobility strands (road and railway) bisect each other and hold some land between them, mainly consisting of car parks and large warehouses. One or two small single-family homes and allotment huts are sprinkled in between. This land has a number of large trees, but otherwise it is mostly sealed ground for car parks, which always seem half empty. This "leftover" area has the potential to be instrumentalized in order to announce the approach of a "village", to slow down traffic and to negotiate the barrier. It has several crucial tasks to fulfil: To suggest an arrival. To give importance to a central crossing which addresses a human scale and a human pace. To question the appearance of the road. To weave the fringes of the barrier with its neighbouring context. And to support the project site as an enriching backbone. How to make the barrier an enriching player in its own right?





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Proximities



The trains high frequency of every 20 minutes, is crucial for Lochau's connectivity and is well used. The train ride to Lochau is exciting, because you have a beautiful view on the lake and you arrive directly at the harbour. You literally plunge into the leisure zone of Lochau. It is a mere 30 metres from the railway platform to the harbour basin. You see boats, a playground, the lido and an old ferry boat that houses gastronomy. It is probably one of the most scenic arrivals you can experience. In case you want to do leisure, this is the perfect setting – everything is at hand within 5 minutes. Many people embark with bikes, as the Lake-Constance Euro-cycle-path runs next to the shore. On a regular day in summer 7,000 bikes pass this spot. The link between public transport and leisure zone has an immense quality. It allows easy access for everyone, is inclusive and in tune with an understanding for a shared place in nature. Its growing popularity, however might threaten sensitive uses and agents.

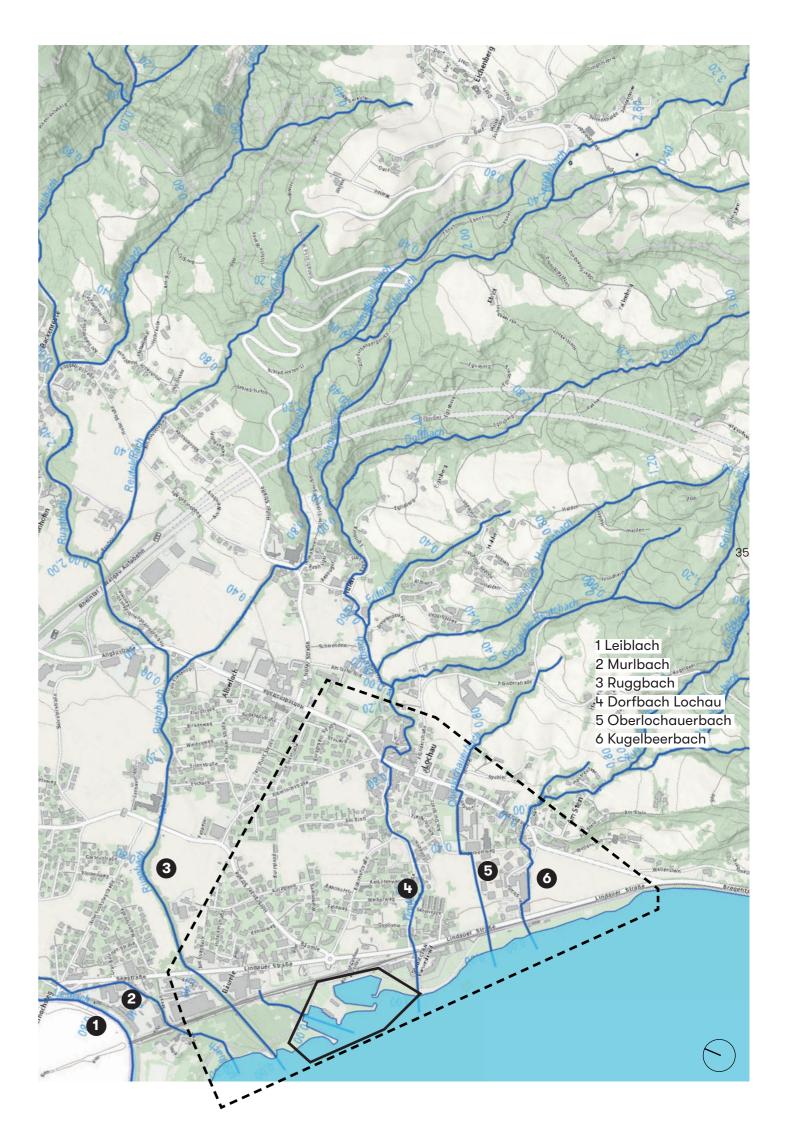
Crossing over to the village-side you do by walking through a small underpass, which leads to a big parking space. All seems geared towards the beautiful side of the lake, coining the village in the back as a less-inspiring "other side" that feels far off. This is where you get into your parked car and drive back to your home. The challenge is to make the transition interesting and worthy for its "distinctive nucleuses" within the archipelago of neighbourhoods. The goal is to stimulate curiosity and encourage the visitors of the shore to discover the "back side", carrying with them the spirit of the shared, the ease of leisure and the beauty of nature be carried beyond the passage. How can the memory of it be brought forward into the village? How can villagers experience an attractive sequence of zones that render the use of their cars to get home irrelevant?

Green network & active mobility



The substantial mountain range of the Pfänder, a foothill of the Alps, gives rise to many small streams and brooks. In the district of Lochau, there are 5 main streams, with numerous branches in the upper areas. The zone between the shore and the mountain is thus, rich in water. Some streams have been preserved in their natural state, one of which is the Leiblach, a Natura 2000 protected area. Remarkably, many of the watercourses still follow their original paths, only their beds have been altered. On certain stretches, the streams have been channelled underground, breaking the visual continuity. However, any intervention disturbs and reduces the chances for a habitat with a high biodiversity. Natural vegetation such as shrubs and trees normally found along watercourses is greatly reduced by human intervention such as infrastructure, buildings and private gardens. Living in the midst of nature might come with the risk of overlooking sensitive habitats and paying too little attention to them.

Vorarlberg, famous for its cheese, is dominated by farmland, which is also found









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in Lochau. Some farm meadows are centrally located and particularly valuable because of the sloping terrain that is typical of Lochau. These wide open spaces provide views and vistas. Questions about their future use are being discussed in the village. Could it be a park or village garden, or should it remain farmland? Experience has shown that there is always a risk of green spaces disappearing when there is a generational change in ownership. Will farming continue? Will the land be divided up? A focus lies on the preservation and use of existing open spaces. An identity creation could strengthen the awareness of these precious green patches and help the municipality to protect the land in its entirety. In any case, it is a resource for people without gardens of their own, for quick recreation in between, and therefore essential for the community. How could the experience be improved? A path through the meadow opens up an alternative network of paths away from narrow paved streets and makes the green space more accessible.

Much has been said in this brief about the stunning Lake Constance, and rightly so. What you also need to know is that the mountain station of the Pfänder cable car is located within the village of Lochau. So, the mountain also plays a very important role. It is clearly tangible in the centre of the village, but hardly so on the shore. Speaking of cross-fertilisation, it would be interesting to see how the backdrop of the mountain could be highlighted on the shoreline. In general, drawing attention to a wider range of local natural resources could be beneficial in sowing memories between the shoreside and the landside.

These three exemplary aspects – streams, green patches and mountain - are embedded in the archipelago of the reflection site. How to make them tangible



and combine them into a symphony of experiences in their own right? What are the narratives that make the crossing on foot or by bike worthwhile? Is it picking flowers on the way up after a swim? Is it a yoga sun salutation in one of the calmest spots where you can hear the water gurgling? Is it watching tadpoles grow? Is it a leisurely stroll home in the shade after a day on the boat? Is it growing your own vegetables in a communal garden and enjoying the first carrots? Tell us about the riches that lie unseen. Show connections that haven't been thought of. In doing so, make nature an equal agent, so valuable that everyone automatically cares for and defends its place, because people realise how important it is for their wellbeing.





historic buildings in Lochau's village centre

Tradition

Lochau's beautiful old houses are of great scenic value. They give the village its distinctive character. Most of these buildings are not listed, but they are historic. There is a clear public interest in their protection. They are prominent and their potential as points of interest should be highlighted. Examples include Hofen Castle, Jesuheim, Salvator College, Wellenstein Castle, the oil mill, the old school, etc. But it wouldn't be Voralberg if there weren't some outstanding modern buildings in between, such as the new town hall. Of course, the protection of the townscape goes beyond individual buildings. The centre is described by the mayor as "the heart of the community" and can be experienced as such, with the free-standing church in the middle. Gastronomy, trade and community facilities contribute to the vitality of the village, but there are also increasing vacancies.

Where, then, should public space be accentuated in order to strengthen relationships and links? Between the old and the new, between the mountain and the lake, between the outskirts and the centre? What are potential anchors in the village archipelago that could be strengthened? How can the centre be enriched and engaged by the sloping land below? How can green areas of biodiversity and active mobility become a driving force adjusting pace and claiming space over car use? Detect opportunities in the existing urban fabric and knit its strengths into your concept.





Project site everyone is welcome

"Lochau, hm.... I don't know it?" - "Sure, it's the place with the old ferry."

This is how Lochau is described and known around the lake. Undoubtedly, the ferry is a strong identity in itself. In addition, many villagers have fond memories of celebrations and parties on its decks dating back as far as the late 70ies when the ferry was installed on Lochau land. By then it was no longer fit for purpose as a boat, but it was perfectly suitable as a small local eatery and kiosk selling snacks and ice-cream to bathers on the beach. The sailing club also benefitted from it and took up some space deep in the belly of the ship.

Now the corrosion of the outer skin and the general deterioration is very

Now the corrosion of the outer skin and the general deterioration is very advanced. An assessment carried out in 2019 confirmed that it would cost 5 million euros to repair the basic structure of the ship. So it was with a heavy heart that the decision in favour of a new building was made.

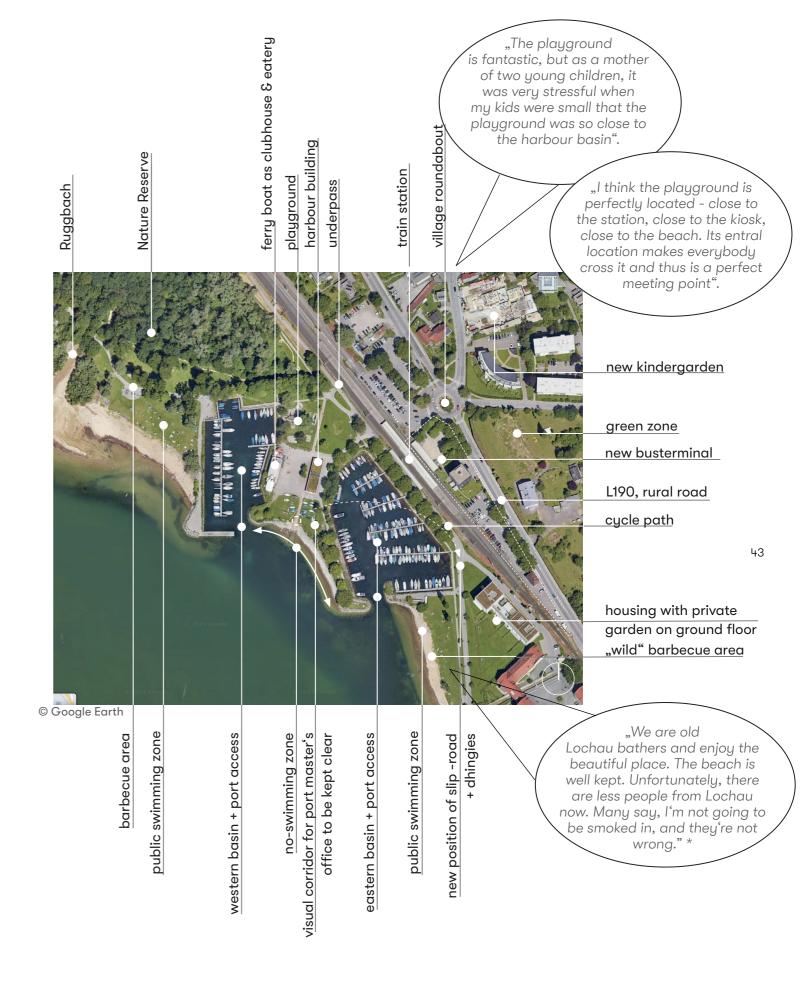
The setting

The project site has 6.5ha and is a composition of various zones, which needs to be considered and will be developed as a whole. The ferryboat is/was a central piece, which must imperatively be seen in its immediate surroundings. In particular, the gravelled area in front of the ferry has often been used as an extension and public space for events or simply a place to gather. Opposite, a small building for the harbour authorities was built five years ago, including two seminar rooms and toilets. In winter the gravelled area is used for parking boats, that have to be taken out of the water during the cold season. It is crossed by a slipway – a concrete ramp – where boats are pushed into the lake. Next to the slipway a number of dinghies are always scattered around, ready for the sailing club's students to pick up for their training sessions.

The shore between the two harbour-basins is planted with an alley of trees. In their shades are benches inviting to sit and gaze out over the water. Swimming in this stretch is strictly forbidden!

Behind the ferry, between the western basin and the railway is a large playground. The underpass towards the car park on the other side is also here. Along the railway and the eastern basin is the cycle path, which runs behind the playground. Next to the western basin is the public bathing area with the Natura 2000 as a backdrop.

As you can see, many functions and movements intersect here. Some of them compromise the possibility of unrestricted interaction. In the course of the preparation for this brief, Europan organised a workshop with stakeholders and users of the port. It was decided that the slipway will be relocated, east of the



^{*} There is a conflict over barbecue sites. People who don't have a garden use the beach to barbecue. Two areas have benches, tables and a barbecue. This is not enough for the high demand. A solution has to be found to resolve this conflict.



project side. This makes the space car free at all times! Before that, boatowners were allowed to drive their boats to the ramp and let them slip into the water. At some days several cars manoeuvred here. Also, the scattered dinghies from the sailing school will be relocated, freeing up space. In addition, a decision was taken where the boats from the basins would no longer park on the gravelled square in winter; they have to go elsewhere. Everyone, who participated in the workshop, wanted the area to be accessible and open in all seasons. Unanimously, a desire for a multi-faceted space, free of motorised traffic and open to as many interests as possible, was voiced.



Eastern basin with alley



bathing area east of eastern basin, with hotel in the back

Key objectives

Identity

As described above, the ferry, among other things, played a crucial role in anchoring the identity of the place. However, it is now set to be replaced by something new, as outlined in the functional program in Chapter VI. Despite this, the wealth of the existing uses, each one in its own right, could easily serve as a new source of identity.

The task at hand is to draw inspiration from what already exists, while mixing in fresh ideas to create a vision of inclusivity that, in its sum, will foster a new identity.

The new volume that will replace the ferry must, in one way or another, embody this thinking and become one mosaic within the whole scheme. It is not simply a building to be negotiated on this site, but rather a driver for a new spirit in harmony with its surroundings and actors. This task is stretched out to the entire project site, demanding a coherent concept that weaves new ideas of just togetherness with existing valuable sources. A careful observation and treatment of what is already there will form the base for your innovative and inspiring proposal of openness, which is the key to the new identity.

Social composition, for everyone

The social makeup of the location is critical, and the current liveliness presents an opportunity and a challenge. The primary objective for this site is maximum inclusivity, with a focus on amplifying the voices of those who are typically unheard. It is crucial to provide carefully planned space for varying needs, including the natural environment. The goal is to create a place that welcomes everyone, from walkers and cyclists to sailors, swimmers, hikers, and nature lovers, as well as families, children, elderly individuals, plants, and animals. The space must cater to locals and visitors alike, groups and individuals, and those who want to spend money and those who do not. Consumption-free areas are crucial for inclusivity, particularly given the high standard of living in western Austria, Lochau's status as a tourist destination, and the current inflation. The site must be a place where money does not determine hierarchy, and new models are necessary to achieve this. These models must operate on various levels, from concept to practical implementation. For example, gastronomy must be considered, with options for those who want to sit in the sun without purchasing food and drink. It involves constructing the performance of an object and equipping it with functional competence, as described in Chapter II. The design must consider the needs of various groups and their constellations, as well as the creation and positioning of spaces for them. The space must include areas for retreat, relaxation, activity, celebration, and socializing, as well as undefined areas that can be used as required. The challenge is to design a space that incorporates this complex mix and encourages participation while inspiring individuals.

Driven by Nature

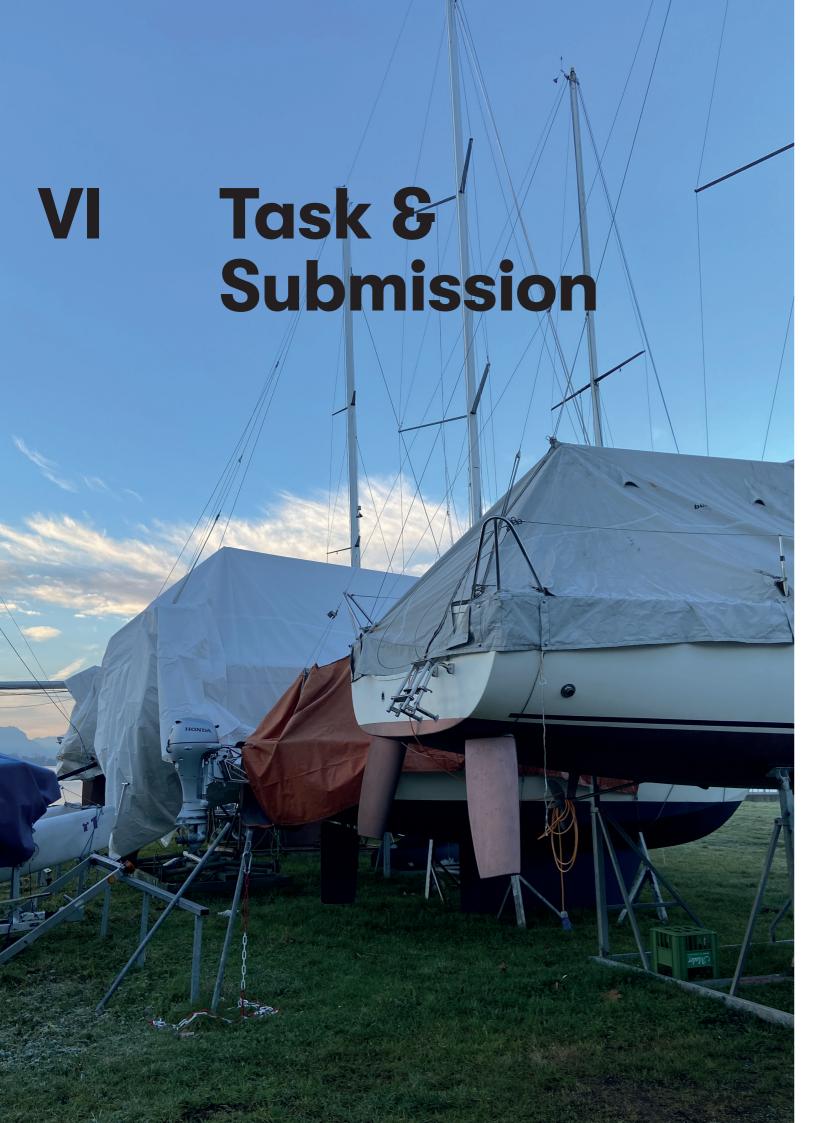
Each season possesses a unique quality. Our project site can be bustling and vibrant at times, while at other times, it can be solitary and peaceful. Regardless of the season, it serves as an invaluable source of energy. How can we preserve the preciousness of this place, where nature plays a critical role? The Natura 2000 area in close proximity has already instilled a certain awareness of endangered plants and species. It is promoted as a special place in tourist brochures, and much education has been provided. However, have we truly internalized the need for a caring attitude towards nature for the benefit of all? How can this project teach us the joy of listening to nature and living and working within a natural framework where humans are just one component of a larger whole?



no-swimming zone, between the two basins playground, western basin visible in the back







TaskReflection site

The reflection site asks for a concept that describes a strategy of connectivity between neighbourhood clusters, green spaces, streams and other microspecifities within the archipelago that spans from the hillfoot to the shore, from the historic centre to the lake. The question of how to deal with the infrastructural caesura and the patch of land between, is another key aspect that has to answer the same call.

Connectivity

The dispersed urban fabric on the hillside is a crucial interface to work on. How can it become an element of connectivity in its own right, reinforcing polycentric identity and underpinning the relevance of the historic centre? Not only its streams and open green spaces could provide suitable locations to extend and anchor a social, biodiverse and inclusive narrative that leads from one to the other and enriches the historic centre.

Active mobility

Fostering modes of active mobility will become a key task in our understanding of movement in local contexts. Linked to the issue of connectivity described above is the question of the infrastructural barrier. Overcoming the B190 and the railway will be an essential aspect to consider in your proposal: Firstly, and most directly, it is a question of how the barrier can be crossed easily and in an abradable way. Secondly, measures to alter speed when approaching the village roundabout. And thirdly, the barrier itself, the stretch of land between the two infrastructure lines - how can this area be developed to be more than just an addition to the speeding cars and trains? What strategies can be implemented to mitigate the barrier effect? Can the land of the barrier become the canvas for the gesture that announces Lochau's innovative and inclusive project on the lake?

Present a convincing scenario that includes both issues. Develop a plan that can be implemented in stages.

Project site

The overall task will be to create a place of inclusion, without barriers, where everyone is invited and can participate. The manageable size of the site and the very concrete task is an immense opportunity. It allows you to demonstrate at all levels - from the overall concept to the detail of the construction - on what it means to be a planner who cares about our future.

Distribution of zones

A major task is the landscape concept and its articulation. The distribution of zones, their possible uses, synergies and a general attitude will be revealed by your proposal. How can new dialogues and relationships be established? Which uses tolerate each other, which should keep their distance? (see also comments from residents). How can we learn to interact carefully with other agents of nature, so that it becomes a self-evident behaviour? Nature will be the fundamental source to generate a concept for this site. "Openness" and "inclusiveness" should become the lenses through which you monitor your design decisions. These terms may look different when applied to biodiversity or maximising synergies, how can you do justice to both? The built volume, as described below, will be only one part of the overall concept. Nevertheless, it should speak the same "language" and anchor the overall idea. The site's result should display an interwoven network of interaction, where different attitudes are to be negotiated and accommodated. The place itself will reflect - in miniature - a method of how we learn to mediate our future. Highlight the milestones that need to be taken on this path forward.

Built volume

The ferry is to be replaced by a built volume that must accommodate the programme set out on the page opposite.

The materials you choose for the building, their sources, the construction process, the construction system (demountable) and the energy supply are ways to articulate your understanding of a reduced/neutral carbon footprint.

Due to coastal protection regulations, the new volume can occupy a maximum of 1.5 times the footprint of the existing buildings in the Lochau harbour area. These are

- the ferry, which has a footprint of approximately 350m2 (excluding the bow and stern, which are not to be counted)
- the harbour building, which has a footprint of 330m2.

It is possible to demolish, rebuild or extend the existing harbour building. Please be aware of the overall budget and take into account the E17 theme of "Care".



In case the ferry is to be left as a reminder of the old, for the sake of memory and identity building, the footprint will be counted as such. Fixed roofs also count as part of the footprint.

The location of the built volume is not fixed and can be placed anywhere on the area between the two basins, wherever it fits into your concept. It is important to understand and remember the accessibility of the shoreline (see diagram on page 43): the shoreline between the two basins is not for swimming, the areas to the east and west of the basins are and must be kept open for this function at all means. It is possible to propose more than one volume, as long as the above framework is respected.

According to the planning authority, the height limit is two storeys above ground level. The maximum height is the same as the existing ferry, which is 9 metres above ground level. In this context, the orientation of the building(s) may be important to ensure unobstructed sight lines when approaching the lake from the village. Please note that the proposed building volume must be placed on the land. Absolutely **nothing** can be built in or over the water.

It is possible to go underground, but be aware of the water pressure and measures to make the building watertight, as the budget for the building is limited to 4.5 million net.

On a programmatic level, the question is how to incorporate flexibility for synergetic and new functions within the given programme. How can this building be open and inviting, and at times include outdoor spaces for temporary uses such as performances, festivals, classes, etc.? Please see also the six aspects described in Chapter II.

Programme:

The list of spaces below is the minimum required by the current actors in the harbour. The task is to include these spaces in your proposal, which tries to orchestrate synergies. Focus on constructing the performance of an object,

Gastronomy

	LQ5 m2
outside terrasses	
Refuse collection point	10 m2
Kiosk	15 m2
Toilets accessible from the outside (for bathers etc)	45 m2
Kitchen (can be split in 2 rooms)	120 m2
Restaurant for approx 150 visitors	200 m2
Laundry	10 m2
Storage (can be split in several storage spaces of around 20-30m2	70 m2
Workshop/office	15 m2

	485 m2	
Yachtclub/sailing school multifunctional room for sailing club, yatch club and villagers	80 m2	
Storage	10 m2	
Workshop/office	30 m2	
Toilets	15 m2	
	135 m2	

total 620,00 m2

Framework

- maximum building height is two storeys or 9 meters
- maximum footprint on the site in total is 1.5 times the size of the existing buildings: ferry = approximately 350m2 (excluding bow and stern, which are not to be counted) port building = 330m2
- available budget for the construction of the new building(s): €4.5 million net.
- the listed program must be accomodated in the built volume(s)
- as far as the landscape is concerned, try to work with plants that are adapted to the local climate or with native species.



Deliverables

IMPORTANT: The following list of documents is a proposal by EUROPAN Austria; your submission documents need to comply with point 4.4 "Items to submit" of the EUROPAN 17 rules, available online.

All plans, sections and elevations shall be provided with a scale bar. Diagrams and concept drawings should correspond to the necessary scale of information and do not have to be to any particular scale. The detail of the drawings and illustrations should thoroughly express and match the focus of the concept. Please provide the following items on 3 A1 panels.

REFLECTION SITE

1:2500 overall site plan (urban scale) explaining the overall urban concept and its main strategic interventions.

Urban context diagrams

- show the concept in relevant diagrams, for example:
- show how the reflection site is connected and interwoven within the site and with the attraction of the centre and the lake
- show how the site deals with the barrier-zone
- show the principles of the green areas
- show further necessary diagrams explaining the focus of your concept

PROJECT SITE

1:1000 overall site plan (project-site) explaining the overall concept of the project site including the landscape concept, distribution of functions and volumes.

Sketches and diagrams

show the concept in relevant diagrams, for example:

- type and distribution of uses potential of synergies with existing programme,
- specific character of the public space (atmosphere, programme, uses, rhythms, day & night, seasons),
- organisation of user flows
- concept on how to secure the inclusion of nature

1:500 drawings

plans of the built volume(s) that are central to the competition proposal: ground floor plan, section and elevation

Sketches and diagrams

show the aspect of "caring" on the architectural project and the landscape, eg

- material resources, structure and building technology

3D drawings / visualizations

At least two axonometric illustrations that visualize the design solution.

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VII Jury

Cristina Gamboa (ES), architect, principal of Lacol Barcelona © Lacol



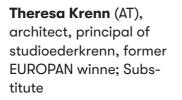


Anna Popelka (AT), architect, principal of PPAG, former EUROPAN winner © Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk (Aedes)



Regula Lüscher (CH), urbanist, former Senate Building Director and State Secretary for Urban Development in Berlin © Inge Zimmermann







Alessandro delli Ponti (IT), architect and urbanist, principal of kh studio, former EUROPAN winner © Marco Egizi, 3industries



Joanna Gibbons (UK), landscape architect, principal of J&L Gibbons © J&L Gibbons



Gerd Pichler (AT), spatial planner, Head of ARE
Development
© ARE



Angelika Fitz (AT), curator and author, Director of the Architekturzentrum Wien

© Katharina Gossow



Radostina Radulova-Stahmer (DE), architect, co-founder of STUDIO-D3R and former EURO-PAN winner; Substitute © Julian Martit



VIII Legal framework

Disclaimer: As the rules are subject to change at the time of publication of this document, please refer to the European website for the full and updated rules for EUROPAN17:

https://www.europan-europe.eu/en/session/europan-17/rules/

ADMINISTRATION OF THE JURY AT THE AUSTRIAN LEVEL

In accordance with the requirements of EUROPAN Europe, the judging will be carried out in two stages. Minor deviations from the international regulations within the procedure are described below.

Technical Commission

A nationally designated technical committee determines the technical conformity of each project submitted

1st stage evaluation: local level Commission

Based on the experience of positive influence on further project implementation, local experts are involved in the decision-making process of the 1st stage evaluation at the level of each site: the seven-member commission is composed of

- two members of the International Jury for the 2nd and final evaluation,
- two national experts in architecture, urbanism or landscape with knowledge of the local context, and
- three site representatives.

In accordance with the international EUROPAN guidelines, the Commission appoints one of the two international members as chairperson and agrees on the evaluation procedure.

The jury then decides which projects do not comply with the rules and whether or not to disqualify them. The remaining projects will be evaluated according to their conceptual content and degree of innovation in relation to the EUROPAN17 theme. As a result, the Commission will select 25% (or at least 5) of the projects submitted for final evaluation.

2nd stage evaluation: International Jury

The International Jury, appointed by EUROPAN Austria in cooperation with Slovenia and approved by EUROPAN Europe, is composed of eight members:

- two experts of the urban order, representing the client's point of view,
- five experts in the field of urbanism, architecture and landscape, and
- an eminent professional (in a field related to the theme).

By appointing two of the four international experts to the local Comission, the transfer of information between the 1st and 2nd stage is guaranteed.

The jury examines the shortlisted projects and selects the winners, runnersup, and special mentions according to the assessment criteria formulated by EUROPAN Europe (see the international competition description). The international jury has access to all entries and can vote to include projects that were not part of the pre-selection.

Each country's budget includes the equivalent of one winner and one runner-up per site. Each project will be judged on its own merits and the jury may award the prizes as a ranked or equal selection or decide not to award all the prizes. In this case, the reasons have to be published. The jury may select projects for a special mention. These projects are recognised by the jury as presenting innovative ideas or insights, but are not sufficiently suitable for the site. The authors of such projects will not receive any reward.

The decisions of the jury are final, in compliance with the rules of EUROPAN Europe.

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