



## EUROPAN 17 – BELGIUM - JURY REPORT **6 – Europe - General theme**

### **1) JURY COMPOSITION :**

#### **A – Urban and architectural command**

- Valerie Depaye : (BE) Director <https://eriges.be/> (Regie Communale Autonome de Seraing)
- Hardwin Dewever: (BE) Director of the Urban Renewal Projects division at <https://www.agvespa.be/>
- Georgios Maillis (BE): Charleroi Bouwmeester, Charleroi (BE) <http://www.charleroi-bouwmeester.be/> - represented by Paolo Ruaro responsible of the implementation process of E13 laureate project in Gilly-Charleroi.

#### **B – Urban and architectural conception**

- Carlos Arroyo (ES): Architecte – Member of the scientific committee of European Europe. [www.carlosarroyo.net](http://www.carlosarroyo.net)
- Ana Ramos (ES): Architect, Director of the Fundació Mies van der Rohe (ES) - <https://miesbcn.com/the-fundacio/>
- Bas Smets (BE): Landscape architect, Bureau Bas Smets (BE) - <https://www.bassmets.be/>
- Orla Murphy (IE): Member of the High-Level Roundtable for the New European Bauhaus. <http://customarchitecture.ie/>
- Pia Maier Schriever (DE): Member of the High-Level Roundtable for the New European Bauhaus. <https://www.rustlerschriever.com/>

#### **C – Personality**

- Chris YOUNÈS (FR) : Psychosociologist, PhD. in philosophy, researcher, professor - Paris

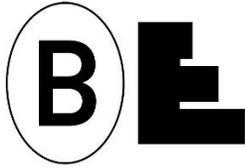
### **2) JURY REPORT – PART I - 1<sup>st</sup> Jury: 13 Oct 2023**

Jury at Cinquantenaire – 1000 Brussels

9:00 am: Site visit with all jury members.

10:00: Introduction :

- o Election of the jury president. Carlos Arroyo is elected as jury president.
- o Proposition by the Belgian secretariat of the methodology:
  - o All projects will be presented by the Belgium Secretariat, to the jury and the sites representatives, on 3 A0 panels and several slides projection.
  - o The Belgium Secretariat has done a first technical analysis. According to this, all projects answer the E17 criterias (see hereunder) in different ways each one.



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Therefore, all projects can be presented. One project has not respected the anonymous render, as a statement of its project. The jury will have to decide whether it will be considered or not.

- The presentation will be followed by a discussion with the site representatives.
- In the afternoon, the jury will fully independently deliberate the projects and make its first selection.

The jury members agree on this methodology.

10:30- 11:15 am: presentation of all projects by Belgium secretariat

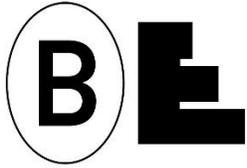
11:15- 12:30: discussion with site representatives

1:00 – 4: 00 pm: Jury debate

- The jury members deliberate all projects with assistance by the Belgium European Secretariat.
- **First selection** of projects to be presented at the San Sebastian international Forum of Cities and Juries

#### **BRUSSELS :**

- **Lm559 Le Plateau Maelbeek**
- **Lx068 71\_50\_asl**
- **Hn333 parc\_bicentenaire**
- **Qy205 the\_citizens\_parliament**
- **Vb312 daily camping**



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### **3) JURY CRITERIA**

Introduction :

These criteria are meant as guidelines to appreciate the different projects according to the multiple issues linked with:

- The E16 definition of Metabolic and Inclusive Vitalities
- The sites representatives' expected issues relayed in the brief and all documents published on the European Europe platform.

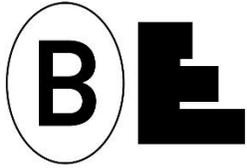
They are not meant as a checklist to be filled by points.

The appreciation of each projects has to be done by the jury according to these specific points linked with the global issues of E17.

#### **E17 LIVING CITIES**

##### **BRUSSELS – Cinquantenaire – Creative process-projects to regenerate inhabited milieus**

- The relevance of the answers given by the project to the questions raised by the theme “Living Cities”
- The ability of the project to connect territory scale (urban, suburban, rural...) to proximity scale of the places, by crossing landscape, urban and architecture.
- The relationship between the ideas of the project and the site's context
- The care with which natural local resources, climatic changes and risks and inhabited milieu are taken into account
- The relevance of the program proposed on the variety, inclusivity and evolutions of uses, in regard to the brief demands
- The potential for integration into a complex urban process including actors.



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#### 4) THE PROJECTS

##### **Im559 - Le Plateau Maelbeek – 1st jury selection**

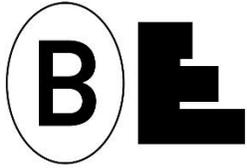
- Most realistic project, which could be implemented tomorrow.
- Pragmatic way of creating ponds, and continuing to the Schuman roundabout. Practical proposition.
- Living conditions well positioned situated in the valley and in the future of climate changes. It keeps the shape of the park, but transforms it into a water reserve.
- Deep intelligence connected to the future. The sense of connecting the people.
- Creates nice connections with its environment. The 2 pavilions on the “rue de la joyeuse entrée” are not very convincing. They are designed as a line, not really sensitive to the topography.
- A little ambiguity in the treatment of the tunnel. The language is not innovative.
- Geographical point of view that can help natural proposition and climate change.

##### **Ix068 - 71\_50\_asl – 1st jury selection**

- The approach to the tunnel is interesting. There is a complete underground world, using the full potential of the existing. Interesting to imagine another world without cars. The entrance toward the Arcades is very clever, connecting all the undergrounds of the existing
- Original and pragmatic proposition.
- Proposition of transformation of the site, without creating new architecture. The project is quite humble, sober. Maybe the work on nature could be developed.
- The project is connected with the attractiveness of the museums. It is a long-term type of project, but it proposes ways to start.
- Pragmatic approach by the way it suggests working with the existing, as well as with the built and unbuilt environment.
- The expectation would be to allow more uses, so that a park can become a square.
- The project is quite ecological, sustainable, while the question is how much concrete and building elements will be needed.
- Using existing infrastructure, considering that cars could be avoided, giving a nice vision to the existing building.
- Utopian vision about the cars?

##### **hn333 - parc\_bicentenaire – 1st jury selection**

- The project proposes a nice vision about the nature.
- Nice proposition of a process. The diagram is quite convincing. It treats all part of the uses of a park: maintenance, water treatment. It shows a lot of intelligence in the way the park can be treated. It is felt as a soft language vision.



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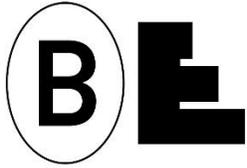
- The role of designer is very clear as spatial facilitators. They offer a frame work to guarantee connections with EU, potentially today tomorrow and later
- The project is very clear in its intentions. One of the best propositions about the life of nature. Classical but relevant design. Making one single park out of the existing, even in the perimeter.
- The use of water in a pond is refreshing. The project improves the urban fabric around the park.
- The use of the underground structures is also interesting.
- The disappearance of the existing buildings is questioning. It seems the park is becoming a kindergarten park? The disappearance of the cars as well.
- Question of the innovating power of the concept. It seems just a way of putting things together in a classical way.
- The image is interesting and appealing because it is hiding the city.
- Hiding the city and hiding the cars?
- The park overtime that links with the environment, on human and ecological process, diversity, reliance, flood trouble, romantic vision.
- Naïve

#### **qy205 - the\_citizens\_parliament – 1rst jury selection**

- Modular forum structure for everyone. It invites everyone on the different places of the park. As well social as aesthetic.
- The covering of the tunnel appears to be a very heavy intervention resulting in classical drawings. The effort seems huge compared to the results. It is like sweeping the dirt under the carpet
- Positively seen, the connections with the other urban patterns of the city. The urban aim is really clear and the green line: the public spaces connect the people. Putting heavy work in the infrastructure getting to light architecture is OK
- Simple and intelligent
- Agora, forum and citizen parliament
- Aesthetic approach could be a layer for intervention.

#### **vb312 - daily\_camping – 1rst jury selection**

- Clear collage of ideas already seen. The new white line becomes a new outline for the park, still permeable. Interesting and beautiful proposition.
- Quite logical using very light touches. Very fresh physically.
- Not touching the tunnel seems logical.
- Rethinking the fence is nice according the way people walk and run around, in a covered way. This might seem to be over-structured just for running people, even if it is a cheap structure.
- Radical project because of the opening all around the park, and inviting people to live there. This can create interactions. It is an inclusive project.



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- The new border is a condenser, working with the daily life. Very gentle but also fragile. The proposition of a campsite is quite provocative and political.
- The questions about climate changes, the new conditions of living and the nature.

#### **xb196 - le\_canal\_bicentenaire**

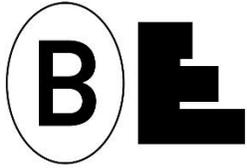
- Idea of reinforcing the central vision
- Canal is an interruption (as well as the tunnel) but is acceptable because it is a support to activities.
- However, there is a contradiction between ecological canal and the use for activities like kayak.
- The essentiality of water presence is a sign for contemporary climate issues.
- The canal can be useful for refreshing, but not really for life diversity. Blue washing?
- No real interactions with the environment. The peace provided by water can be a nice social support, but not really clear about the natural issues. The effort seems too big compared to the result.

#### **dh126 - a\_new\_paragon**

- Creating a covering place, a crossing link over the tunnel, blocking the view of the arcades (which they do on purpose) could become a blocking proposition for the project. Still the place could become a protective retreat.
- The project looks like only one piece of intervention, without connections with other issues. The proposition looks very monumental.
- Just doing architecture concentrated on itself.
- Presenting a new monumentality.

#### **bk851 - cinquantaire\_tapestry**

- The project could become a model to other cities. The position of a meta level through the tapestry metaphor is bringing the project to other places.
- Interesting reflection about environmental energy. Tapestry of a forest of natural items dealing also with energy. Public garden celebrating the trees and energy. Does not do much else. Anti-monumentality as a topic is brought to a nice shape, though it looks like a collection of nice pictures.
- Multi-layer approach gives answer to different criteria. Dealing with climate issues and also digital waves and items. Nice ideas of how a park can work in the future. Nice ideas of pavilions for the presence of EU in the idea of organic roles. How can we work with sustainable items to bring people together?
- The text is very beautiful. The idea of tapestry suggests a nice formal result, but the result does not respond this expectation.
- Concept and drawings are clear, but there is no landscape work. Tapestry is imposed on the surface of the ground, with no real consciousness of it.



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- Potentiality of a development.
- Flexible concept, maybe too flexible. Lots of possibilities, but with no guides.
- Not forcing the EU to change its attitude to the Brussels Region.
- Too shy. There is a device, but with no precise work on specific spaces. This idea could fit to another place. Not really situated.

#### **xd936 - 200\_70**

- Propositions that can change according to participation process. The result in the place is not clear but the process is answering to NEB issues.
- Interesting arguments for questioning propositions like covering the tunnel.
- The idea of mirrors around the trench is a nice intervention. The arches along the existing building do not look as well.

#### **go348 – mending the\_urban\_fracture**

- Ecological role far away from the Cinquantenaire. Concerns the whole city not only the place.
- Nice proposition for the Schuman roundabout and the green connection to the EU site.
- Gentle approach connecting people living around the park
- Lacking in ambition.
- The crossing over the tunnel is very complex and not very clear. It appears to be a celebration of the car. It emphasizes the role of the tunnel, which could be interesting but the way it is done is too weak.

#### **cy279 - one\_more\_round**

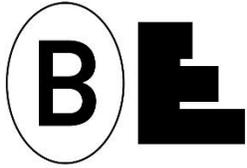
- Strong claim to connectivity, from past to the future, places for others and for the neighbours. The choices may seem weak, but it is a new way for the future.
- The graphical dialogue is quite suggestive. But the proposals for Schuman roundabout and the tunnel don't answer to the expectations, though they show good knowledge of Brussels

#### **du493 - the\_bottom\_up\_lobby\_campus**

- The concept is potentially mixing an idea of a park and a manmade structure. More a trial of interweaving lives. Super accessible to everyone.
- Not really elaborated.

#### **qh921 - the\_reflection\_of\_tomorrow**

- Proposes a process.
- It needs some techniques to engage in the process.
- A lot about circular economy but we do not see the intention about the evolution of the park.
- Lack of precision of the ways.
- The link with the scaffolding of the justice palace is a question about long and short term for the park.



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- Process in one year is Interesting for temporary uses, not for further transformations.
- The project seems finally very naïve.

#### sa493 - nui\_new\_urban\_imagination

- In close examination, it emerges that the panels display the names of the authors, and, although the text seems to justify it ideologically, it is a breach of the rules of the competition, which leads to disqualification

### 2<sup>nd</sup> jury

#### 1. General comments out of the E17 Vienna's Cities and Juries Forum

##### 1.1. Feedback by Asbl 50/200:

Importance of the notion of « Project – Process »:

Take into account the notion of time and process

Is the project open enough to evolve?

Is the project strong enough to federate the actors?

Can authorities, politicians, developers as well as other professionals and all kinds of affected users become co-authors of a collective project?

Open spaces can help to requalify and reprogram buildings in a resilient & long term way.

The notion of « client » must evolve from the traditional understanding to a more integrated understanding that includes nature, other species (birds, animals, insects, etc).

A resilient approach of the park requires natural connections, dealing with water issues, with eco-corridors between habitats, etc.

Take into account climate change will have an influence on the aesthetics of buildings and open spaces, can help to make evolve the « standards », will need to « move the lines ».

Time: Is the project able to be (partially) implemented by 2030?

##### 1.2. Feedback by European Scientific Committee representatives (Chris Younès and Carlos Arroyo):

The DNA of European is to create processes based on new ideas and visions, as an invitation for stakeholders to cooperate on imagining the future facing climate changes. Sometimes, these ideas become reality, as the visits in Vienna showed it. (Arenas-Basabe-Palacios E10 “Wildgarten” 2010, completed 2022)

The thematic “Living Cities” of E17 is a second call (E16’s thematic was “Living Cities” too) for making things with the existing nature (“Let the birds sing”), milieus (Second life), and buildings (“Non Tabula Rasa”). It’s a call for metabolisms including proximity, transversality and opening to discussions and exchanges.



The “Cinquantenaire” site is a fantastic symbolic situation including all living, citizenship, decolonizing and heavy infrastructure issues in a condensed situation. Such a challenging site imposes a strong vision, empowering all actors around it.

The five selected projects out of the first jury were discussed during the Forum for their topics and problematics: dealing with water within a central urban park, imagining a second life for infrastructures avoiding the use of cars within the city, questioning the presence and uses of buildings within a park, suggesting small instead of heavy interventions.

### 1.3. OIB comment:

According to this feedback from the E17 Cities and Juries Forum, the OIB is happy for its choice to participate to the E17 session with this site, including the NEB Task Force. The OIB expects the jury will help with recommendations in the report on how to achieve the project. A NEB exhibition is scheduled in April 2024. It will be a nice opportunity to present the E17 Brussels Cinquantenaire projects, and the selection by the jury with its comments, as part of the process to rethink this public space.

## 2. General discussion by the jury

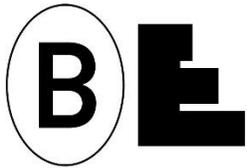
The five selected projects are complementary by their topics and the questions they suggest:

- What is possible for a park in the city?
- How to deal with the two scales collapsing through the different projects (the interventions in the park and their impact on its close and further neighbourhood)?
- Is it a park, a square, or a plaza?
- How to deal with the symbolic dimension of the existing and its future?
- What is implied when a public space becomes symbolic?

If the project has to be possible in 2030, any heavy intervention to the tunnel does not seem feasible given the 6 years timeframe. Therefore, we need to choose a project that will suggest not only a vision, but also a process that can lead to concrete realizations of the project. The role of the chosen team will be crucial in the perspective of this long-term process (see “Wildgarten” E10 2010 – completed 2020). Some teams are very clear in the processes to achieve their vision. The E17 winner team should be involved in the masterplan process that is being developed through different approaches.

Therefore, we need a strong vision about the status of a public space according to the evolution of our democracies. It is a question on how to bring people together in the public space taking account of the intensity of their uses (leisure > protests), dealing with climate changes and the need to protect nature.

## 3. Debates and decisions:



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After several discussions and exchanges, comparing the five different projects, the jury chooses as **winner Im 559 “Le Plateau Maelbeek”**, and as **runner up lx058 “71\_50\_asl”**. These projects are complementary in their vision strongly challenging the Kennedy Tunnel infrastructure, through precise existing and future interventions, while proposing a real status to the symbolic public space.

A **special mention** is given to **vb 312 “Daily Camping”** for its capacity to transform the symbolic space into a strong people gathering space, through light interventions.

#### 4. Comments on the projects

##### Winner: Im 559 “Le Plateau Maelbeek”

This project challenges our responsibility to deal with heavy rainwater issues, not only on the site, but also on in the broader context of the city. As the Jubilee Park is situated on a plateau between the Maelbeek and the Woluwe river valleys, it has an inevitable impact on the way these two valleys will have to deal with water overflow.

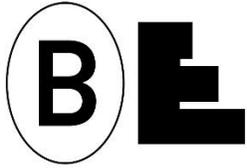
The project’s strong vision is consequently to make use of the existing infrastructure, mainly underground, to deal with water retention basins, at different scales, according to their position within and beyond the intervention site.

On the site itself, the project suggests a landscape organisation overlaying the existing structure of the Park, and ongoing experimentations on wild and educated nature. The light interventions (narrowing the pathways with enlarged wild plantations, replacing the fence by such plantations, proposing transversal light pathways, ...) will have a strong impact in changing the status of this site. From an artificial infrastructure designed 150 years ago as an event space, this site will become a real natural space improving life of its close and further environment, through the porosity of its boundaries. Moreover, dealing with water on its several potential states (monumental mirror, natural pond, temporary puddle, ...), the project demonstrates a poetical dimension that transforms its strong attitude into a large process invitation.

Further developments will show how the underground infrastructures can be transformed into water retention tanks, what they will look like when water levels drop during dry periods, and how they will deal with the general slope of the site.

The entrance pavilions close to the Schuman roundabout require architectural definition, technical structure and clearer programming. These two pavilions will allow supports for the presence of EU in the Jubilee Park, while on the other side of the park, the project suggests “natural” entrances into the Cinquantenaire existing monuments.

The project strongly respects the intervention site while suggesting other interventions out of it, and by doing so enriches the link between Schuman and Merode.



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### **Runner Up: Ix068 “71\_50\_asl”**

Through a very pragmatic design of ambitious underground interventions, the project develops an interesting complementarity between upper ground existing and underground to be transformed spaces.

The project demonstrates a large knowledge of the topographical and hydrological structures of the Senne, the Maelbeek and the Woluwe valleys, and of the underground existing mobility infrastructures. According to the evolution of mobility policies in Brussels leading to a reduction of cars in public spaces, the project suggests a progressive strategy to reclaim the underground spaces.

Taking the opportunity of their morphology, the project develops spaces for exhibitions, events, and social exchanges, in different typologies (Rotunda, Agora, Hub), as introductions for a large “Museum Mile” vision that leads from the Jubilee Park to the Canal Pompidou.

The question remains: how much the underground efforts will affect the upper ground spaces, and what quality of public spaces they will guarantee.

There is a lack of information about natural cycles, the rainwater impacts, and the synergy between the upper and undergrounds.

### **Special mention: vb312 “daily camping”**

Through light and apparently genuine interventions, the project proposes a strong and deep transformation of status of the Jubilee Park: from an institutional and monumental site, it becomes a place to live, night and day, and to use with sport, leisure or learning activities.

The project proposes a clear strategy to transform the fences on its boundaries into a porous structure of covered spaces proposing a welcoming and protecting invitation to inner the Park.

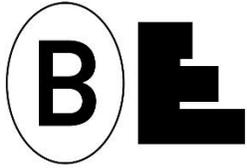
The “daily camping” topic opens to social consciousness according to immigration contemporary issues, as well as low-cost and ecological tourism or housing solutions in case of events or protests.

The whole conception of the project is guided to take a critical distance from the monumental character of the park, questioning the Belgian colonial past and its monumental heritage, avoiding reinforcement of the Schuman-Merode axis.

This is an easy to do project, proposing a structure and natural toolbox that could be applied anywhere else, in other public spaces or parks like this.

By doing this, no matter how sensible and remarkable it is, the project loses a little in pertinence and specificity according to the issues of the future development of the site.

### **Hn333 “parc bicentenaire”**



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Based on a historical timeline, from the origin of the park (1853-1875 Le champ des manoeuvres > 2023 Le parc aujourd'hui), the project proposes a ecosystemic process to transform it within the next six to ten years.

It studies the green, water, public spaces and mobility systems, to finally propose a park to be inhabited in multiple natural and socio-cultural ways.

The project looks very simple and attractive, but the solution proposed for the main problem (the motorway) is not very clear. A cross section in the length would have showed how the covering and the underground water purification system would be more than intentions.

The proposition of soil cleaning and water retention in unused infrastructure is not clearly developed and argued, while this is one of the fundamental issues of the reuse strategy the project proposes on existing public spaces or buildings.

### **Qy205 “the citizens parliament”**

Based on a very nice drawing of the Brussels historical artificial and natural fabric, the project proposes a park based on a reversed historical relationship with nature.

As a huge “Citizens parliament” structured under a linear organization of “Encounter place”, “Exchange chambers”, place for “Cultural Events”, a “Forum”, it opens to “The institutionalisation” as a *“symbolic representation of citizens’ ideas to European institutions”*.

Reinforcing the monumental axis, it proposes quiet peripheral spaces to enhance biodiversity borders dealing with water retentions and infiltrations basins supposing to generate social bonds by producing space for nature and everyday life.

The central circular social infrastructure seems quite monumental, while covering completely the Kennedy Tunnel, without questioning its uses and the technical issues of such a covering. Such a circular shape could be designed anywhere else.