

EUROPAN 18 CROATIA - REPORT OF THE JURY

Zagreb, November 17th

Number of registrations

Zagreb site - 18

Number of entries for the country and per site

Zagreb site - 12

Composition of the jury

Jury members

1. David Mikhail (UK), architect, president of the Jury
2. Josip Jerković (CH), architect
3. Alan Kostrenčić (HR), architect
4. Jana Čulek (HR), architect.
5. Ivana Antunović Jović (HR), journalist
6. Nataša Bošnjak (HR), architect
7. Zoran Paunović (HR), PhD in Economy, Mayor of Makarska (HR)

Replacement members

8. Snježana Turalija (HR), economist
9. Senka Dombi (HR), architect

PHASE 1: preliminary analysis by the Technical commission

The Technical commission consisting of Zrinka Babić Vujić and Jelena Bule has assessed the entries through the jury platform and conducted a preliminary analysis with the following elements: short description of the entry, how the entry relates to the reflection site, how were the topic of RE-SOURCING and the topic of affordable housing resolved, project site urban and architectural design, questions and contradictions about the entry. They also prepared a table to compare the apartments and common areas, including parking and green spaces. This has been done as a preparation for the jury work. The technical commission presented the entries in detail at the first round of jury.

PHASE 2: first meeting(s) of the jury to make a preselection among the entries

Zagreb, September 20th

PARTICIPATION OF THE JURY

Present jury members and replacement members:

David Mikhail, Josip Jerković, Alan Kostrenčić, Jana Čulek, Ivana Antunović Jović, Nataša Bošnjak and Zoran Paunović.

Of the substitute members, Senka Dombi was present.

The jury met at 9 at the University of Zagreb premises

The voting members of the jury were David Mikhail, Josip Jerković, Alan Kostrenčić, Jana Čulek, Ivana Antunović Jović, Nataša Bošnjak and Zoran Paunović.

David Mikhail was chosen as the jury president.

The technical committee has presented all the entries in detail.

After that the jury has visited the site, to make sure that everyone has understood the scale and the urban context.

All the projects were assessed as conforming to the competition rules, so all were discussed by the jury in regard to the main topic of the session – RE-SOURCING, and to conceptual answer to the site problems as requested in the brief. The jury has at length discussed the topic of affordable housing and how it can be achieved while maintaining the aim of innovation and high-quality urban space.

The jury has made a round of all the entries, and discussed each entry according to the rules of European. Special attention was given to the session topic, and the degree to which each of the teams have responded to the brief and specificities of the site and the wider context. In each round the entries that did not satisfy the brief have been eliminated from the competition.

After lunch and another round of discussion, and reexamining once more the eliminated entries to make sure that the decisions are well informed, the jury has voted on the entries that they regarded as best suited to the selection method, and finally decided to preselect four entries:

Xz771 Learning from Klara

Pb746 The Common Green

Zu111 Soft Prospect

Vz848 Where the Wildflowers Grow

PHASE 3: SECOND MEETING OF THE JURY

Zagreb, October 25th

PARTICIPATION OF THE JURY

Present jury members and replacement members:

Josip Jerković, Alan Kostrenčić, Jana Čulek, Ivana Antunović Jović, and Zoran Paunović.

Of the substitute members, Senka Dombi was present.

The jury met at 9 at the University of Zagreb premises

David Mikhail was absent, substituted by Senka Dombi

Nataša Bošnjak was absent, substituted by Snježana Turalija

The jury has met in the Faculty of Architecture at 9, and has discussed the preselected entries once again.

During the second round, the jury assessed the projects on basis of:

- The relevance of the answers given by the project to the questions raised by the theme “Re-Sourcing”;
- 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 relevance of the program proposed on the mixity, inclusivity and evolutions of uses, in regard to the brief demands;
- The potentiality of integration into a complex urban process including actors;

After an extensive discussion and another examination of all the entries, the jury analyzed again the preselected entries and their potential to be implemented and the benefits and development strategies that they bring to the city of Zagreb. After discussing once again the preselected entries, the jury decided to award the first prize, second prize and two special mentions.

The jury gave their final decision as follows:

WINNER

PB746- THE COMMON GREEN

AUTHORS

- ALEJANDRO CARABALLO LLORENTE, (ES), ARCHITECT
- CARLOS REBOLO MADERUELO, (ES), ARCHITECT
- JOSÉ LACRUZ VELA, (ES), ARCHITECT

RUNNER-UP

VZ848 - WHERE THE WILDFLOWERS GROW

AUTHORS

- HANA DAŠIĆ (HR), ARCHITECT
- JANA HORVAT (HR), ARCHITECT
- RIA TURSAN (HR), ARCHITECT

SPECIAL MENTIONS

XZ771 - LEARNING FROM KLARA

AUTHORS

- ANTEA DIVIĆ (HR), ARCHITECT
- SARA BLEKIĆ (HR), ARCHITECT
- MACIEJ WIECZORKOWSKI (PL), ARCHITECT

ZU111 - SOFT PROSPECT

AUTHORS

- MARIA AMADOR (ES), ARCHITECT
- JULIO SÁNCHEZ (ES), ARCHITECT

JURY COMMENTS ON THE ENTRIES:

PB746 - THE COMMON GREEN – 1ST PRIZE

The project *The Common Green* has not only offered a high-quality and innovative urban design and a sound model of affordable housing, but has also articulated a compelling vision of contemporary collective living — an idea of community in which social cohesion is grounded in shared green space. The project's strength lies in its consistent integration of three interrelated layers: the natural environment, the social life of the community, and the architectural and constructive dimension. Nature and greenery are not introduced as decorative additions; rather, they constitute a formative element in shaping the settlement's identity through the integration of the natural landscape into everyday life.

What most distinctly sets this project apart from other entries is the authors' position that involving the local community in the further development of the competition proposal fosters a sense of belonging and shared identity. This participatory approach promotes collaboration, mutual care, and meaningful interpersonal connections among residents. During implementation, inclusive workshops with local inhabitants would define priorities and develop concrete building strategies based on consensus, ensuring coherence throughout the design and execution phases.

Settlement Concept and Public Spaces

The project demonstrates a refined capacity to operate across multiple territorial scales—urban, suburban, and rural. Its founding premise is the conception of the natural landscape as an active framework that both informs and generates the urban structure and the identity of the new settlement.

A particularly engaging aspect of the proposal is the design strategy articulated through a sequence of gardens with varying degrees of ownership and stewardship, reinforcing the notion that the natural environment is a collective responsibility. Through this, the landscape and the care for nature become integral to the social fabric of the community, reaffirming nature's role as a *common good* within collective life.

The settlement is organized around a linear green axis—a longitudinal park that connects, to the south, a recreational park with children's playgrounds and a small retention pond responding to seasonal floods, with the northern park that hosts a public plaza containing a social centre and sports facilities. Along this "green" transversal spine, which serves as the integrative core of the settlement, residential clusters are arranged in small, cohesive groups.

Traffic Organization

The proposal introduces a clear hierarchy of circulation across three levels: a *perimeter corridor* surrounding the settlement, *shared streets* within it, and *access paths* leading to individual clusters. The system of higher-capacity roads is placed along the outer edge, allowing efficient vehicular circulation while minimizing traffic within the core. Priority is given to pedestrian and bicycle movement. Each building cluster includes a shared underground parking facility with storage and technical rooms.

Architectural and Housing Design

The housing units are organized into small clusters of paired buildings, interlocked to ensure each dwelling benefit from optimal sunlight, orientation, and cross ventilation. Ground floors host either apartments with private, unfenced gardens that seamlessly merge into communal greenery, or commercial spaces with direct street access — one per cluster. These commercial units are strategically positioned to encourage social interaction and community integration among residents.

The buildings are designed with laminated timber structures, enabling rapid and "dry" construction. Building with sustainably sourced wood reduces CO₂ emissions, accelerates construction, and minimizes waste through prefabrication and efficient on-site assembly. The construction process is conceived to rely on local materials and assembly systems, minimizing the carbon footprint and adhering to high ecological standards.

Apartments are designed within a 2.6 × 2.6 m modular grid. The orientation of the dwellings is particularly favorable, as even the smallest units enjoy exposure on three sides. The smallest apartments—studio and one-bedroom types—are 48 m² in size, equal to the ground-floor commercial units. Roofs host shared gardens and solar panels. Within the prescribed housing typologies, the authors also propose a *co-living* unit composed of four rooms, each with a private bathroom, connected to shared kitchen, dining, and living spaces.

Conclusion

This project most clearly embodies the *European* ethos of fostering and promoting innovative approaches to urbanism and new housing models. It delivers both qualitative and quantitative advancements while remaining feasible for realization.

A particular strength lies in the authors' advocacy of *collaborative urbanism* through inclusive workshops with residents and organizations to define priorities, promote agreements, and arrive at consensus-based solutions throughout the design and implementation stages. Such an approach provides both assurance and responsibility that the proposed scheme will serve as a robust foundation for further refinement and adaptation to local needs, regulatory frameworks, and planning conditions.

Furthermore, in direct response to the *European 18* theme *RE-SOURCING*, the project activates the site's latent resources—soil, vegetation, microclimate, community dynamics, and local knowledge—as key drivers of transformation.

As such, *The Common Green* convincingly represents the most comprehensive and contextually appropriate response to the themes and challenges posed by this *European* competition for the Zagreb site.

VZ848 – WHERE THE WILDFLOWERS GROW

Starting point for the project is a meticulous analysis of the reflection site. The team shows a high level of understanding of the context and its problems, which leads to subtle but efficient intervention proposals and strategies to improve the quality of life in the area. Especially the proposal of pocket gardens seems plausible and beneficial for the quality of green public spaces across the wider area of Klara. To further integrate the Klara Nova area into the surroundings and reduce dependency on private cars, an extension of the public transport network is being proposed, making the entire city easily accessible.

The lessons from the reflection site have been used to secure the urban quality on the project site level. This is implemented by means of re-sourcing the Novi Zagreb urban planning experience, Klara's own semi-rural qualities and the natural habitat typical of the Turopolje Plain. The urban design concept responds to the site's edges with different architectural typologies varying degree of permeability. Opening towards the park, the fields and recreational area, at the same time protecting the neighbourhood from the noise of Sisačka cesta. The project shows excellent understanding of the given urban planning restrictions and fully uses the possibility of their interpretation while remaining within the boundaries of the possible and the feasible.

Between the buildings a central public space has been positioned, hosting a community centre, a market, and a public garden, flanked by different public services, communal and private gardens. The quality and climate of public spaces are further increased by a network of creeks collecting rainwater and distributing it to the two newly planned lakes. The urban design proposal bravely challenges the common notion of the street as a space for vehicular traffic and uses a wide range of measures to ensure the priority of pedestrians. Departing from modernist ideas of division of traffic through elevated streets and their contemporary interpretation in the form of underground roads, the project evokes the principles of Team Ten, Jane Jacobs as well as Jan Gehl, treating the street as the crucial element of the public space.

The three architectural typologies offer different living models adjusted to the specific micro location. One facing inward while forming a protective edge towards the loud Sisačka cesta, a second one opening to the surrounding fields, and a third one with shifting and hovering volumes, intertwined with communal gardens. All typologies have generous outdoor spaces and a gradual transition between private and public spaces. On the level of the apartments a lot of care has been taken to frame their connection with the landscape, thus increasing the quality of living. Within the given architectural program, the decision was rightfully taken to prioritise living and outdoor spaces. In this way, the housing remains affordable, while enabling interaction of housemates in generous living areas extending outwards.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

XZ771 LEARNING FROM KLARA

The authors present a highly attentive and contextually grounded reading of the site, demonstrating a deep understanding of its spatial complexities, localized characteristics, and the forms of daily life that unfold within it. Their approach reflects a sensitivity to both the physical and social dimensions of the neighborhood, recognizing the subtle dynamics that shape the lived experience of its inhabitants.

Building on these insights, the proposal prioritizes the creation of spaces for public life while preserving the unique atmosphere of Klara - a place that exists between the urban and the rural. Rather than imposing a radically new identity, the project embraces this in-between quality and seeks to strengthen it, generating a sense of publicness without erasing the site's existing private character.

A central strength of the project lies in its development of a spatial "toolbox" for fostering community life. The authors define a public spine that extends through the neighborhood, offering a consistent framework that supports a variety of uses and activities over time. This spine acts as both an organizing device and a catalyst for social interaction, encouraging flexible occupancy and engagement, considering not only human users but also non-human inhabitants, foregrounding an ecological sensitivity that aligns with contemporary environmental and social approaches.

The proposal is particularly commendable for its use of time as a design tool. By envisioning scenarios across different months and seasons, the project acknowledges time as an essential element of design.

Architecturally, the intervention is deliberately non-imposing, yet intentionally designed. The visualizations communicate a calm and pleasant spatial atmosphere that feels welcoming and grounded. While certain practical and technical questions remain unresolved, this openness is consistent with the project's strategic rather than prescriptive framework and approach. Because the proposal positions itself as a toolkit rather than a finalized masterplan, there is potential room for these issues to be addressed in subsequent development phases, as well as throughout the life of the project and neighborhood itself.

Finally, the choice of modular construction using CLT and brick contributes to the project's feasibility, particularly in the context of affordable housing. These material decisions support both sustainable construction practices and practical implementation, reinforcing the proposal's grounding in real-world concerns while maintaining its conceptual clarity.

Overall, the project demonstrates a thoughtful and nuanced approach that respects the particularities of its context and prioritizes long-term social and ecological vitality.

ZU111_SOFT PROSPECT

The project "Soft Prospect" presents a thoughtful and sustainable response to the challenges of affordable housing within the urban context of Zagreb. This proposal recognizes the transitional zone between rural and urban environments, transforming it into a productive, sustainable, and inclusive framework for living.

The authors propose a combination of traditional masonry construction and modular typologies, merging familiar techniques with the adaptability required by contemporary needs. Through this hybrid method, combining traditional building with modern typological principles, the authors demonstrate an understanding of local resources and community needs, creating a sustainable and easily adaptable model for future projects. The core idea of the work is based on creating spaces between city and nature that enable self-organized communities and long-term sustainable housing models. The redistribution of soil forms gentle artificial hills that not only define a micro-topography but also affirm the landscape as the main identity of the new urban settlement. Preserving natural ground and minimizing asphalt surfaces become the foundation of economic and ecological rationality: by reducing interventions and infrastructure costs, space is freed up for community, vegetation, and micro-ecosystems. In this way, the project offers an alternative to standard urban planning models based on complete artificialization of terrain.

An additional quality of the project lies in its social component. It follows the principles of the 15-minute city, providing spaces on the ground floor for local production and communal activities, thus encouraging functional diversity and social interaction. This creates a rhythm of everyday life where movement becomes an act of shared living rather than mere transport. Pedestrian porosity and spatial connectivity contribute to the creation of a vibrant, interconnected neighborhood.

“Soft typologies” define the essence of the architectural strategy. The houses are semi-detached, modular, and built in brick, low-tech yet spatially highly efficient. Such an approach brings multiple benefits: cost reduction, support for local workers, and a long-term sustainable construction system. The typologies are designed without corridors, maximizing usable space and allowing functional transformation over time.

Biodiversity in the project is not just an aesthetic addition but a key part of the concept. By introducing water surfaces, green belts, and spaces for small animals, while preserving existing vegetation, “Soft Prospect” establishes a new, sustainable balance between nature and the city. In doing so, the project transcends the boundaries of architecture itself, becoming an example of thoughtful, ecologically responsible planning.

“Soft Prospect” is an innovative, contextually sensitive, and socially engaged proposal that conceives housing as a shared ecosystem—spatial, social, and ecological. Its value lies in building a vision of new urbanity based on closeness, flexibility, and coexistence between humans and nature.

OTHER ENTRIES

IP995 - POLYCENTRIC HABITATS

In this project the organization of the settlement is based on the introduction of an internal road network that provides access to the plots and the houses located on them. Public and communal facilities are situated at the northern and southern edges of the site. To the south, there are cultivated gardens, a small local market, and bicycle repair workshops. This southern area is conceived as a self-sustaining ecological system rooted in local vegetation and fauna. The northern part is planned as a recreational zone featuring a communal building envisioned as an information centre for the residents, including spaces for social gatherings, a library, and a rooftop park.

Despite the sound conceptual approach, the spatial connection between the public and communal areas in the north and south—through the residential neighbourhood in the middle—is not consistently realized, as can be observed in some other projects. In the centre of the settlement, semi-public green spaces are proposed between clusters of houses; however, these areas tend to belong primarily to the surrounding dwellings, thereby preventing a continuous network of shared green spaces. Consequently, the intended sense of spatial continuity and integration is diminished.

The central part of the settlement, composed of detached and semi-detached houses, is envisioned as a mixed-use residential zone intended to include commercial spaces for small businesses such as markets, cafés, health services, and co-working areas. While this is undoubtedly a commendable idea, it is not convincingly supported by the architectural layout of the buildings nor by their placement on the plots.

VG786 - AUX-X-ETICS PEACOCK

The conceptual framework of the project is marked by notable ambition and intellectual sophistication, positioning itself as a provocative theoretical statement rather than a practically realizable model. Its speculative nature becomes particularly evident when examined against the background of existing urban planning parameters and Croatian legal frameworks, within which its implementation would encounter significant constraints.

The project originates from the premise of a radical inversion of the conventional plot–building dichotomy: the entire site is reconceived as a continuous parkland biome in which architectural volumes appear as transient guests rather than permanent fixtures.

Architectural expression is guided by two complementary conceptual threads. The first is the Pollination Hub, an *ecocentric* vision that prioritizes non-human life forms—bees, bumblebees, hoverflies, butterflies, and bats—thereby expanding the notion of habitation beyond anthropocentric boundaries. The second thread concerns material recycling, articulated through the inventive notion of *kitbashing*—a metaphorical reference to the practice of assembling new models from fragments of existing kits. This gesture also engages the philosophical register of hauntology, a term introduced by Mark Fisher in reference to Derrida’s writings, suggesting a critical re-engagement with the spectral traces of the past. Within this framework, the “donor structure” is identified as Lokomotivska Hala A of TŽV Gredelj, reinterpreted as a key mnemonic and material anchor of the proposal.

Formally, the architectural language constitutes a hauntological reading of the site. The most recent industrial layer—a concrete-silo aggregate plant characterized by a ramified and non-hierarchical footprint—is

transposed into a porous, tentacular geometry mediating between ecological corridors and zones of human occupation. In doing so, it constructs a spatial scaffold for coexistence between memory, matter, and mutation, operating simultaneously as infrastructure, landscape, and mnemonic field. Residential organization is conceptualized as an assemblage of plug-in “action cubes”—compact volumetric modules calibrated to a one-metre cubic grid. These units’ interface with an auxetic structural spine through reversible joints that enable processes of additive growth and subtraction without compromising structural integrity. What appears geometrically rigid in plan thus reveals itself as an open-ended system of accretion and transformation, suggesting a living architecture in perpetual evolution. Despite the project’s conceptual richness and aesthetic coherence, its translation into feasible architectural and urban form remains problematic. The proposal’s dependence on radical material and regulatory reinterpretations renders it largely unbuildable within the constraints of current practice. In conclusion, the project stands out for its visual allure and conceptual audacity, contributing a significant theoretical provocation to the discourse on re-sourcing and re-imagining post-industrial urban spaces. While it remains unrealizable under present conditions, its value lies in expanding the intellectual and ecological horizons of architectural speculation.

FO229 THRESHOLD COMMONS

This was a good entry, with an architectonic set of building types and a clear idea about site strategy, which sought to push cars and parking to the edge, to help make a car-free landscape at its heart. In many ways the architecture of the housing was one of the better resolved, using balconies and offsets to create potentially attractive buildings, carefully modelled to give visual richness to a new neighbourhood.

A deeper exploration of placemaking could have revealed a more compelling design for its big idea, with the shared landscape represented only cursorily. Also, the m2 of tarmac could have been reduced with a more questioning & people-centred approach.

Closer inspection of the plans revealed little appreciation of the building physics behind conserving energy / keeping fuel bills low for residents, whilst the flat layouts, whilst benefitting from windows on 3 sides, were relatively tortuous. Overall, this was one of the better schemes, but missed inclusion because its strong basic premise, of a people-centred shared landscape which could help encourage play and community away from traffic and cars, was not taken far enough to form a compelling vision.

JR144 GREEN IN-BETWEEN

The project identifies the unbuilt areas of the Sveta Klara location as a potential for the development of micro-commons: green, shared public spaces for the community which become interconnected through a network of bike and pedestrian paths. While the intent of the project is to create a 15 minute city, it is questionable whether commons alone would be able to provide the necessary content and amenities for this area which is currently occupied predominantly by housing and lacking some basic social, commercial, and public infrastructure.

On the scale of the neighborhood, we recognize the intention to create a few different levels of public/private spaces through the gradation from more private urban gardens, towards the communal parks and recreation areas positioned on the edges of the plot. However, we propose that the concept would have benefited from a more designed interplay between these spaces, especially with integrating the smaller urban gardens with the overall concept of the common spaces, which now seem more like residual spaces of the private gardens. For the housing units, the project proposes underground parking which is allocated to each detached or semi-detached housing unit. Given the affordability requirement set for the housing, we question whether this option is feasible, especially given the fact that the project already utilizes curb-side parking in front of the buildings, with enough space to potentially fill all the requirements.

The flexibility of the buildings which is allowed through their repetitive and almost modular structural system is recognized as a good approach. But it is questionable if all the proposed instances function together with the system of seemingly very large, and architecturally accentuated external galleries and staircases, which in some cases may be redundant (especially with the double-height units).

NQ618 - KLARA FERTILE GROUND

The perimeter is being structured by alternating set of public “green corridors” and blind alleys perpendicular to Buričev odvojak. While the “green corridors” serve as communal spaces, the roads serve primarily as access to the underground parking between the buildings. These urban planning elements provide a clear structure aligned with the surroundings. They also achieve a certain level of efficiency while allowing a direct connection between a public park in the southwest with a recreational zone in the northeast.

However, the complex connection of parking, housing, and public space remains architecturally ignored. Many of the public spaces, though given an ambitious programme, are not provided with the design and infrastructure needed to support their public use. The landscape architecture, although conceptually considered, remains generic and lacks a relation to the local habitat.

On the level of architectural design, the authors depart from the clear urban structure and develop a wide range of housing typologies, which results in a rather heterogeneous impression of the project. This approach deteriorates the quality of the public space vital for the future residents. At the same time, the numerous housing typologies provide neither a strong relation to the local architectural heritage nor the sought for quality of private living spaces.

PL828 THE CULTIVATED CITY

The entry presents a bold and innovative vision of the urban-rural junction, with a clear emphasis on sustainability, local food production and social cohesion. The idea of creating self-sustaining communities located along existing agricultural fields on the banks of the Sava River is certainly inspiring and boldly refers to historical and modern urban concepts, such as the ideas of Howard, Wright and other visionaries that the authors cite.

Although the concept is bold, this idea may remain isolated, if a clear vision and strategy for expanding to a larger area is not developed, i.e. replicating the concept on a wider scale, which will be challenging due to ownership issues.

A particular problem is the minimization or negation of the role of traffic, i.e. the lack of clear traffic solutions. The project envisages reducing traffic and introducing calm streets, but does not offer enough concrete solutions for stationary traffic. Without clear strategies for effective management of stationary traffic, such solutions may remain unrealized or cause additional problems in everyday life.

Finally, the relationship to nature and the orientation of the housing units within the massive building (“mastodon”) act as a deficiency in understanding functional and aesthetic needs. Placing individual apartments in an unfavorable position - with some parts facing the main road or oriented towards less attractive sides - disrupts the feeling of privacy, comfort and connection with nature. If the goal of the project is to establish closeness to nature, key spaces should be optimally oriented towards greenery and quiet sides, which would significantly increase the quality of life.

Visual representations, especially three-dimensional presentations, successfully convey the atmosphere and basic idea of the project, but at the same time do not provide a sufficient level of urban clarity. There is a noticeable disproportion in the level of elaboration of individual segments of the project: while some aspects are processed with exceptional quality, others remain insufficiently developed and argued. Although the vision of the urban and rural connection is conceptually extremely interesting, in some parts it prevails over the functional aspects of the space. In conclusion, the project stands out for its courage, innovation and independence, and does not require further elaboration in terms of its practical and spatial planning implementability.

QH072 - CONNECTING THROUGH LANDSCAPE

A loop road attached to Buričev odvojak not only makes a simple and recognisable gesture, but also manages to provide vehicular access efficiently to all the building plots. The buildings are positioned laterally to the central zone defined by the access road and form a distinctive triangular shape, serving as the main public space. Further pedestrian connections extend to a public park in the southwest and a recreational zone in the northeast.

Despite the identifiable and well-connected public space, the central zone seems over dimensioned considering the low density of population and a limited number of publicly accessible facilities. Moreover, the design of the public spaces lacks authenticity, and the landscape architecture does not relate to the locus.

Thus, missing a chance to stronger differentiate the character of public spaces through the choice and use of vegetation.

On the architectural level, four different types of the same housing typology have been developed. While their similarity of volume helps to strengthen the urban design layout and the legibility of the public space, the generic design of the façades and the placement of garages facing the street weaken this effect. Therefore, the main entrances to the apartments are moved to the side, making pedestrians subordinate to drivers. Though the apartments nominally fulfil the task given by the brief, the architecture falls short of providing a generous and interesting spatial experience for its inhabitants.

NW532 – “Re-framing Klara: Back to the Origins”

The author starts from the premise that Sveta Klara, once a predominantly rural area, is today one of the most endangered urban spaces in Zagreb due to uncontrolled urbanization. The fundamental concept of the work is “re-framing”, redefining the spatial structure through the setting of a new urban matrix that connects existing and planned public spaces. The project is characterized by a high level of urban thinking thought and understanding of the broader urban context. The author recognizes and reinterprets historical development patterns of Zagreb, from Donji Grad to Jarun and Špansko, applying them in a contemporary context. Particularly noteworthy is the synthesis of planned and spontaneous development, the effort to enhance rather than erase the existing urban fabric, and the clear hierarchy of spaces from private to public, which fosters community cohesion and a sense of belonging.

A positive aspect is that the author develops a strategy integrating urbanism, ecology, and social needs, proposing a modular system as a model for accessible and sustainable housing. Additionally, the emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle connectivity demonstrates awareness of contemporary sustainable planning requirements.

The main critique of the work is that the design of the main street becomes the backbone of the new spatial order. While it clearly defines the urban structure and links public spaces, this approach carries the risk that road infrastructure may become the dominant spatial element. Ideally, the street and associated infrastructure should primarily facilitate the functioning of the neighborhood, rather than becoming its central driver of development.

President of the jury

David Mikhail, architect