Landscape Architecture as a common ground

IFLA Europe Exhibition of Landscape Architecture Projects in Europe
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I am pleased to be able to write the foreword of this publication to the first IFLA Europe exhibition which is to celebrate the breadth of landscape architectural projects throughout Europe. We requested that each National Association of IFLA Europe provide three exemplar projects which demonstrate the most laudable projects within their jurisdiction. We are quite sure that not only are there more than three such fine examples in each jurisdiction but that it was also very difficult to choose from the many possible projects.

This is our first year doing this exhibition or exposition and we thought it would have been fine to receive entries from all our members (34) we received 24 numbers of entries and these are displayed in this publication. It is our hope that in future we will receive entries from all our members. For now, enjoy this first publication as I know I will and will cherish them in coming years.

I would like to especially thank the creators and those who realised these projects including all who worked on them both creatively and physically, the designers and those working in the construction, the contractors and their staff without whom we could not produce such works...

The vision of this exhibition is due to Urszula Forczek-Brataniec, our Secretary General who championed this idea and the efforts of the organising committee and the staff and students of Cracow University of Technology and The Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow without whose work this would not have been possible.

Tony Williams
IFLA Europe President
Landscape as such is of many definitions. Yet, in all of them it is an element of a greater whole. It is its continuity that forms the operational basis of the widely understood landscape. This continuity facilitates transmission, continuation and exchange which then, in turn, become the basis of its existence and the ability to regain its strength. One of the tasks for contemporary landscape architecture is eliminating barriers that have accumulated alongside the development of civilization. The IFLA Europe exhibition has managed to put together all types of interventions that overcame the barriers. It demonstrates reconstruction of water structures, restoration of green connections, and streamlining pedestrian and cycling routes. These interventions take on an attractive architectural and landscape form whose beauty stems from its functional and ecological wisdom.

The exhibition presents 61 projects from 24 countries in the form of a catalogue, a multimedia presentation and 24 exhibition panels. It is reduced to a compact form which we place in the hands of national associations whilst expressing hope for repeated celebration of the exhibition opening in particular countries. We believe it might be a pretext for encounters, discussions and talks on the issue of contemporary landscape architecture as it aims at broad promotion of this profession as well as the mission of shaping the space while bearing in mind its complexity.

My warmest thanks go to all participants, domestic associations, the working group, the organizational team and all individuals who devoted their time to the preparations. This material is the result of cooperation of a great number of individuals and teams and this exhibition would not have seen the daylight had it not been for their shared commitment.

Urszula Forczek-Brataniec
IFLA Europe Secretary General

Many national associations of IFLA Europe organize annual contests for landscape architecture projects in their respective country. IFLA Europe wants to take this rich harvest to a European level; to fill the entire map of Europe with excellent projects. The purpose of the exhibition is to provide a comprehensive overview of landscape architecture across Europe for both a professional audience and the public. We expect this will benefit the understanding of the work of landscape architects at both an international and at a local level.

In June 2017 we established a working group within IFLA Europe and discussed the first outlines of the exhibition. In autumn 2017 we prepared of a brief of the exhibition format, technical requirements and guidelines for graphic materials. The first call to National Associations went out in November 2017. We invited all IFLA Europe member associations to participate in the exhibition. Each country was requested to select three representative projects (of the past five years) and indicate one of them for publication in the poster exhibition. The work really gained momentum after we opened an online Dropbox to collect the materials. Many associations uploaded their projects and the quality of the material and copyrights were verified. The summer months were dedicated to the editing and the layout of the poster and the catalogue.

We are very pleased to present the result of one year of work. In total 34 countries send in their projects. One project from each country is presented in the printed poster exhibition. All these projects are included in the catalogue and online slideshow. We hope this exhibition will become a source of information and inspiration.

on behalf the IFLA Europe exhibition 2018 Working Group
Gertjan Jobse (NVTL, The Netherlands)
PARK ‘SVETA GORA’

The park is located in the locality “Sveta Gora” from where its name comes. It is a public green area located less than 1 km from the city center in southeast direction. Due to division of the locality and the urban part by Yantra River, the vast area of 53.7 ha and the relief features, the park territory remains outside of the busy urban environment and allows for longer stays of visitors and more recreational activities. The project aim is the reconstruction of the park territory consisting in the development of separate parts and zones, connected by walkways and visually connected with characteristic cultural and historical landmarks, located on the neighboring hills “Tsarevets” and “Trapezitsa”. The analysis of the territory allows to be developed as a concept, related to three main aspects: preservation of the natural appearance of the environment and multipurpose use of the proposed elements; stressing on combinations of shapes, textures and materials; inclusion of a wide variety of recreational facilities and activities for visitors of different ages.

Country: Austria
Authors: Idealice Landscape Architecture; team: DI Alice Größinger, Mag. Arch. Robert Größinger, MA Matthias Bresseleers, DI Srdan Ivkovic
Exact Address: Maria-Tusch-Straße 6, 1220 Vienna, AUSTRIA
Investor: EBG Gemeinnützige Baugen. reg. m.b.H.
Contractor timber works canyon: Holzbau Johann Ruesch
Budget: 397 000 €
Completion: 2015

SEESTADT ASPERN D12

The residential complex is an eye-catcher in Vienna’s urban development project Seestadt Aspern. The idea of combining natural materials with modern architecture continues in the open space. Wooden elements create a unique Canyon, surrounded by courtyards with flourishing vegetation. The avantgarde design of the open spaces underlines the unusual nature of the building complex. The whole public zone has been developed into an interactive communication space: the inviting Canyon that encourages appropriation and play in the heart of the complex is an exemplary offer to all residents and visitors. The youth playground is used by residents and visitors of all generations and age-groups and has thus become a lively public zone. The lower-lying “valley” is the courtyard’s incisive element, differently structured wooden walls encourage to engage in obstacle races or circuit training. Angled walls and integrated sitting elements provide the opportunity to relax and observe. The invitingly bright yellow EPDM surface covers the entire Canyon, serves as fall protection and also contributes to noise abatement. The Canyon’s end leads into green courtyards, which form an organic landscape. Small-crowned trees growing between grassed mounds provide ideal visual screens for private terraces and create privacy without fences.
FAMILY HOTEL AMARIN PARK

Landscape design is based on the concept of different zones. The features of an exceptional micro-location of the plot - the picturesque western Istrian landscape - a unique combination of karst topography and the Mediterranean vegetation with the sea merged in the landscape concept. The network of park trails forms with the hotel a logical and indivisible whole. Within the network of paths, project particularly emphasized the blue path, a kind of a sign in the space, which, in a great arc, dynamically and boldly, circularly connects the green space with the hotel, enveloping its southern arm. Atmospheres of the park change from the representative, official and the foreboding in the north, through the relaxing, country, amazing, playful, and relaxing again from the west and southwest, the authentic and astringent in the south, the meditative in the southeast to the sizzling and vibrant with entertainment facilities in the east. The northern parterre deconstructs the Istrian meadow with the associated Istrian rare and unusual plants, while the southern parterre constructs the idea of an aromatic Mediterranean garden in vibrant colours.

4COURTS PARK

The park was built on the site of the former military area, centrally between the housing estates of Máj and Vltava. The design was selected in the architectural competition (2012). Considering the geological conditions of the area (clayey soil which suffocates new plants that have not been pre-cultivated in these conditions), the main concept of dealing with vegetation that was chosen was the principle of directed succession. The park was designed as the entrance into the landscape. The landscape — area with undirected succession — is a logical and natural continuation of the succession areas of the park. The 4Courts Park is not delimiting itself from the landscape but it gradually merges into it. The park is naturally interconnected by the chosen concept with both the immediate and the more remote areas of the communities that are close to the landscape, as well as with the ecosystem of nearby ponds. Points of entry into the park are connected to the streets of future new blocks of flats. The network or paths is purposefully designed to service all the necessary activities in the park; it connects entry points with the potential goals of the park visitors and forms a natural tissue of the area. Considering the area waterlogging, the network of paths is based on the heaped terrain.
CHATEAU CITY PARK PARDUBICE - TYRŠOVY SADY

The project started with a public architectural competition victory. We join the city centre with the park by two major interventions. In the southwest a distinctive communication axis of the promenade — city avenue. In the southeast, one of the central squares is tied up with park through a new generous staircase. The park has two layers, natural and cultural. The City Intensive Park is an authentic architectural space for active relaxation, while the natural part — new aquatic biotope is conceived so that one becomes a quiet observer here. From the Elbe river, the water is fed to the park by a new artificial stream. We invite river into the park, it becomes a source of irrigation water. The stream circulates through the park and returns back to the river. Network of the paths is formed by the milling paths, the material of the promenade is glazed concrete softened with vegetation elements — flower beds and the existing and the newly planted trees. This axis is accompanied by the steel pergola with a membrane roof and atypical benches, growing directly from the surface of the wooden pavements in the concrete promenade. In the south end there is a new two-storey park café.

OSLAVANY

A little dimple in the outskirts of a small town. Green sanctuary between a field and a road, is the home for birds and hedgehogs. In the past, people dug a hole in the hillside and later created a garden at the bottom fit. Thin trunks of plum and apple trees stretch skyward and compete for light, their crowns grew together and their branches entwined. When the trees leaf-out, they create a deep green shade. Uneasy for the light to penetrate through it. In spring the snow drops stick out, but in summer the land is relentlessly covered by bishop’s weed/ground elder. This unique and tranquil place was bought by a very generous man with the intention to keep it as it is. So that no one can destroy it or divide it into plots. Here, the fruit ripens for the birds, nuts are harvested by the squirrels. And it will stay this way. We carefully read this place and listen to it. We know, we can do slight interventions only. Downward stone steps, a stone wall meander, by which we’ll create a frog pond with ferns and forget-me-nots, this year. Then perhaps seats leaning back to the tree trunks and a table, to allow you to sit here in peace for a long while and observe. More words would be needless. To see this slow process of changing is pure joy.
PLAZA IN FRONT OF NORTHWEST LIBRARY AND CULTURAL BUILDING

The active plaza in front of the Copenhagen Golden Library — on the site of a former gas station — has become a landmark for the whole youthful and mixed neighborhood surrounding it. It can be used for both activity and recreation with the plants functioning as a screen towards the busy road while at the same time bringing flowers, grasses and trees to the area. The programming of the plaza is a result of a user involvement process that invited local citizens, clubs and associations to put forward their wishes for a future public space in front of the library. Hence it has been developed with a high degree of interaction with both building and neighborhood. The plaza is structured as a terraced grid with a module of 5X5 meters. The squares are used both as plant beds, plinths and for seating. Additionally the plaza has been designed as a LAR solution where 16,000 m³ of rain water are delayed and held back by slowly draining from the terraced grid to the plant beds. The plants are trees as plane, cherry, hawthorn and horse chestnut, shrubs such as dwarf lilac and also perennials such as anemone, geranium and lavender.

VESTRE FJORDPARK

The outdoor swimming pool is an important part of the city of Aalborg’s recreational landscape. With a bathing culture that has characterized the area for 120 years and where a diversity of users has set a lively, friendly atmosphere, the new Fjord Park complies with these qualities, and sets the scene for an active and coherent green-blue experience. The main focus has been to ensure the continuity of the grand fjord landscape in the framed park landscape thus establishing a logical and easy accessible connection between water and land. The Fjord Park consists of an unfenced open-air pool, activity areas and light wooden buildings, hosting various sport clubs and a café. The landscape is divided into several subdivisions with each their own distinctive character: The Isthmus to the north with associations to the raw nature along the fjord. The Beach around the open-air swimming pool with water, sand and bathing activities. The Fore stand The Wetlands to the west and south, with dense planting that contrast the open spaces to the east towards the city.
LINDEVANGS PARK

The project Lindevangs Park and urban square called Sløjfen is based on the desire to disconnect and retain rainwater to avoid over flooding the vulnerable lower surrounding areas. The project seeks to show how climate adaptation can bring a traditional park up to date by using the flow of torrential rain to open the park and thus connect city, school and park. The rainwater is used to irrigate and create a more untamed, wild urban nature, which allows the planting of fruit trees, reeds, and bushes. The blackcurrant ditch along the park is in dry periods a communal city garden with blackcurrant bushes and apple trees. The open lawn area is transformed into a oval tilted bowl where rainwater is collected. In the bottom of the bowl is created a scene that can be used for dance and theatrical performances, martial arts, scooters and roller skaters. An urban square named Sløjfen has been converted into a combined storm water and activity area for children and grownups. With inspiration from the former tram loop, rainwater is collected, cleaned in the underground pipes and led in a grand movement based on Fibonacci’s spiral geometry. Water is a Centrum that creates new cultural life and encourages different activities in the city.

URBANCOWS PROJECT IN PÄRNU: HIKING TRAIL AND BIRD WATCHING TOWERS ON PÄRNU COASTAL MEADOWS

The general aim of the project was to improve the conservation status of the coastal meadow and coastal lagoon habitat complex in Pärnu Coastal Meadow Nature Reserve. It was achieved by clearing approximately 300 hectares from reed and bushes followed by the reintroduction of cattle grazing, traditional management in Pärnu coastal meadow and lagoon habitat complex. Another goal was raising the awareness of both the local community as well as the visitors of Pärnu town about the nature values of the protected area and attract people to visit this area. During the project the infrastructure necessary for grazing (fences, shelters, etc.) and attractive for visitors (information boards, observation towers, naturetrail) was established together with preparing the area for the continuous management in the future. The coastal meadow complex of Pärnu regained its historical appearance, popularity among visitors and favourable conservation status during the project. The project was implemented under the coordination of the Environmental Board and financed by the European Commission. Additional funding was provided by the Environmental Investment Centre, Pärnu City Government and the University of Tartu Pärnu College.
RECONSTRUCTION OF ROOSI STREET

Roosi street links the new Estonian National Museum and the city center. The street is comfortable and attractive in urban settings; pedestrian-light traffic is preferred. The distance at apparent shrinkage moves the museum closer to the city center, making it more accessible to light traffickers in particular. A new type of street square was created on Roosi street, which, in addition to an interesting route, offers visitors a place of stay, activity and viewing. The 3.5 meters wide pedestrian promenade runs unstoppable along the street on the left. Crossings with driving lanes are raised to the pedestrian’s height. The street’s beginning is marked by a small square in Ülejõe Park, the street closes before the expanding with mini-square in the direction of the ENM. In the semi-natural area adjacent to the street, a wooden path is marking the former Soviet military area. It runs as an alternative museum-road in-between the barbed wire fence and lets the walker experience and look closely at strange historical details from Soviet time and also observe the ENM from a different perspective. The landscaping of the whole street has been resolved in the key to the of semi-natural plant communities that have developed by themselves over the years in the whole Raadi area.

GARDEN FOR THE SENSES AT TALLINN BOTANIC GARDEN

In 2013 an idea was developed to introduce plants for practical use in new part of Tallinn Botanic Garden. There was also initiative to offer experience with these plants to visitors with special needs. So the two ideas were merged and the new name became Garden of Senses. Besides, the garden tissue is extremally interesting for professional and hobby gardeners, medicinal plant lovers, food gurmans, schoolchildren, etc. Garden of the Senses is no ordinary garden, not for Tallinn Botanic Garden nor for Estonia. The garden is a voyage in the world of perception. It calls on us to take heed of our senses, manipulate them and develop them. It is first and foremost intended for people with special needs but it really calls on all of us to raise our awareness and hopefully increase our understanding of the needs and challenges faces by disabled people in their everyday activities. The main supporting element of the concept is universal design. The aim is to take into account as wide group of users as possible, no matter their capability either physically or mentally. The interest from disabled advocacy organizations and their constructive feedback were key elements while preparing this project.
**LEIMUNIITTY**

Leimuniitty is an internationally recognised example of modernist garden design designed by garden architect Jussi Jännen in 1959. The starting point for all new design was the restoration of the historical landscape and subtle renewal of structures following Tapiola’s clean-lined modernism.

Prominent materials; concrete, wood and steel were used in installations. As Tapiola will be considerably redeveloped in the near future new activities and installations were included, such as new pedestrian and bicycle bridge, terraced seating area and exercise area with a long bench. They are all connected with the landscape embankment placed in the middle of the park to prevent seawater and storm water from accessing the town centre. The embankment hides extensive amount of underground infrastructure such as pumping stations. The large groups of perennials that were removed in the 1990s have been restored in accordance with the original theme and bright colours functioning as a signature of the Tapiola garden city.

The landscape, a large spatial composition, which is viewed from many different directions, plays again an important role in the appearance of the garden city’s centre.

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**KALASATAMA PARK AND ENGLISH SQUARE**

Kalasatama park and English square are the main public spaces in the heart of Kalasatama, the new densely built residential area in Helsinki. Together they connect a metro station, a service center and shorelines to housing blocks.

The park and the square are opening up towards city center of Helsinki and the sea with great views. The design concept of the park and square was inspired by the local history as an archipelago and last 100 years as a harbor. On the other hand the new neighborhood’s city scale with high-rise buildings and the location of the square under the metro and traffic bridges gave an inspiring challenge for the design.

Both the park and the square create a large landscape architectural entity that has the same spatial and design principals. Topography of the site forms large, undulating surfaces reminding of the waves of the sea. Lawn surfaces are tilted towards a storm water retention basin. Vegetation of the area emphasizes the undulating effect. Large steel structured gate luminaires on the main pathway combining the park and the square together like a backbone. Old harbor structures of the site are preserved as reminiscences of the history. The yellow colour of the old harbor structures is used in details and structures.

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The heart of Tikkurila, the administrative center of the city of Vantaa is radically changing from car-dominated area to an urban pedestrian friendly center with market square, pedestrian streets and central park between the Town Hall and the Library.

City of Vantaa organized a Landscape architectural competition in 2007 as part of the strategy to offer its central area a new perspective for urban life and social attractiveness. In the first stage, between 2014 and 2016, the underground parking and market square with solid concrete benches and a water pond were completed. The park’s opening ceremony was in 2017. The design goal for the site, previously a green space dominated by transit and parking, was to transform it into a multifunctional open space for all ages. Playgrounds and a small skating pool are concentrated along the main pathway. The open lawn was formed to a slope towards the sun in order to increase the sense of space. This shaping also includes the storm water management system. Art was an essential and integrated part of the design process. Its concept and solutions are inspired by the 1950’s architecture and the idea of human longing to find one’s home in the rapidly changing environment.

Reunion, a small volcanic island, lies 800 km east of Madagascar (Indian Ocean). The population can only live in coastal areas where the demographic pressure is very strong, specially in the West. The Route des Tamarins was created over 35 km to open up the coastline. Between a town, a nature reserve and a listed site, there is a confined space where the landscape architects had to create a three-land dual carriageway nearly 30m wide. Instead of just building a road, the idea was to construct a real landscaping project building relationship between the town and its natural, cultural and agricultural spaces and creating a relationship between the populations and the spaces. With the regional council, the landscape architects have successfully set ambitious landscape orientations for the west coast of the island. The project continued over time at the scale of the large territory covers the design of an urban edge at St. Paul. The four fold project around the highway allows the inhabitants to reclaim their living spaces: re-creating a wetland area which constitutes the identity of the town, 2 promenades, a new road junction downsized and repositioned.
Country: France  
Author: Agence Ter (lead consultant: Henri Bava Michel Hössler, Olivier Philippe) and team: Agence Ter Architectures (architectes) + Berim (engineering and cost consultant) + Coup d’Éclat (lighting consultant) + Biotope (ecological consultant) + ISL (geo-engineering) + Phytorestore (Hydraulic & Pond ecology) + Skatepark Service Conseil  
Exact Address: 12 Rue Albert Dhalenne, 93400 Saint-Ouen  
Investor: Sequano Aménagement  
Main Contractor: consortium: Razel/Segex/Lachaux/Design Parcs/Coteg/Satelec/CMF/PMS/Archi Made Folie’S  
Budget: Park 29 700 000 €; Plazza: 3 400 000 €  

The Park of the Docks is an extensive green space on the banks of the Seine, the keystone of the 100ha development zone on the edge of Saint-Ouen’s historical centre situated North of Paris. The transformation of a monofunctional, industrial territory into a new mixed development fully integrated in the existing town is conceived around the park, a link in the urban fabric, a community facility, and a hydraulic system treating rainwater for the entire development and allowing floodwater expansion.

The park was imagined as a series of platforms for activities and floodable biodiversity hollows parallel to the river. Rainwater from the ecoquarter is filtered by plants, oxygenated by cascades, and reused in the family gardens, next to the community greenhouse, one of a series of buildings by Agence Ter Architectures. A generous multipurpose lawn is complemented by wildflower meadows. Links between future urbanism and park are reinforced by the axes of the composition, and the use of ‘ha-ha’s and water as barriers to keep views open. The chateau is linked into the park by an avenue of oaks, and set in terraced gardens, and to the south west, an extensive plaza forms a balcony onto the park.

Country: France  
Author: FABRİQUES Architectures Paysages, Rémi et Pierre JANIN / Association Polyculture / EARL de Vernand  
Exact Address: Vernand 42470 Fourneaux, France  
Investor: EARL de Vernand  
Main Contractor: EARL de Vernand  
Budget: 175 000 € HT  
Completion: 2005-2015

The Vernand Agricultural Park is a landscape project concerning a cattle farm located North of the Massif Central in France. This 90 hectare farm has been committing in organic farming and direct selling for more than 25 years. Initiated in 2005 and affirmed as a long process accompanying the agricultural cycles, this project consists at this scale to propose new forms of landscapes both nourishing, environmental and shared, within societies become predominantly urban. For example, it led to a complete rethinking of the cropping space by designing a system of very fine cultivated strips perpendicular to the slope in order to limit erosion. These strips are punctually separated from new paths useful for agricultural circulation. At the same time, they are connected to the public hiking network adjacent. Other spaces have been modified to create new types of pre-woods or grazed parks.

Finally since 2008, an association has been developing around this place to carry a cultural project to create new forms of representation and sharing of agricultural space. This approach has succeeded in proving that we can “make landscape” while seeking an agricultural performance.

SAINT-OUEN / PARK OF THE DOCKS

PARC AGRICOLE DE VERNAND

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BLUE AND GREEN CORRIDORS IN EDESSA

The project is part of a green network strategy for the city of Edessa. A landscape masterplan was proposed for the redesigning and connection of blue and green corridors, urban hubs and focal points through the urban center. Old pathways and traces of the existing natural and historical landscapes were used as a pattern for the design of corridors and meeting points in order to create continuity in the city. Along the three main waterways/canals, extended walks were designed and an intriguing landscape was regenerated, inviting visitors to the city.

- Canal A is devoted to Art & Culture and promotes the cultural character of the city, intermingling modern and traditional installations.
- Canal B is connected to Nature, through a new urban linear park, which preserves the existing natural character of the canal and integrates recreational and educational activities.
- Canal C is devoted to History and creates a walkway equipped with a series of exhibition points and installations, which leads to the waterfalls of Edessa, the key landmark of the city. Finally, a series of parks were regenerated using contemporary equipment, sustainable materials and indigenous plantings and managed to transform public areas into interactive community spaces.

TELEKI SQUARE

Teleki Square is located in Budapest’s centre’s socially most diverse and colourful areas, in one of the city’s most disadvantaged neighborhoods. Following a successful EU tender for funding the renovation of the square, an inclusive community-based planning process was initiated that would result in what is now a barren, ill-reputed, crime-ridden and functionless space becoming a vital neighborhood centre in a part of the city desperately lacking outdoor recreational and social opportunities. The community-based invention of Teleki Square aims to show that interventions which promote cooperation, interaction and participation — through which strong local community identity can be developed — play an increasingly important role in societies of today, taking active part in creating lively, livable cities. In case of the Teleki Square Community Park the inclusive planning process was essential in creating an inclusive design. Apart from the realization of the inclusive design concept, one of the most important outcomes of the process based design was the formation of the Teleki Square Association which now takes active part in the present and future activation of the area.
The Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Szentkút is one of Hungary’s most important pilgrim centers, which is visited by hundred thousand every year. It is a shrine since the 1300’s, but the current church and friary was only built in the 18th century. At the end of 20th century the grey friars were given back the buildings and they soon decided to execute a large-scale development: beside the refurbishment of the existing buildings this involved establishing new ones and redesigning the surrounding area. One of the key elements was the refurbishment of the processions and gathering area of the pilgrims, which is also a space for open air masses and accommodates the Holy Well. The design team was led by the Architect, Tamás Nagy. Because of the periodic but very intensive usage, in agreement with the Client, the majority of the area was paved. The beautiful setting in the landscape and the atmosphere of the buildings required natural stone as paving material. The surface got its delicate layout by little changes in size and pattern and by decorations which act as accessible surface. The uniquely designed benches play an important role in function and draw a graphically nice pattern.

MÁTRÁVEREBÉLY, SURROUNDINGS OF SZENTKÚT PILGRIM CENTER

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SZÉLL KÁLMÁN SQUARE

Through half a century functional changes the Szell Kalman square slowly transformed to a traffic interchange node and as a result it became ‘Buda’s Main square’, as one of the busiest public spaces of Budapest. The primary concept is to ‘revive’ the square and to create an accessible, visually open space, which has the capacity to cope with a daily traffic of 200,000 (!) people, while also be able to equilibrate between the traffic interchange and the ‘Agora’ functions. As landscape Architects, we faced to a big challenge to find the right tool, which can soften the heavily built environment, and present a situation where beside the presence of the traffic also reveals the quality of the vegetation. The image of the square was formed not only by the new architecture, but also by the idea of ‘all-direction’ pedestrian movement. As a result, the appearance of the square, the layout of the pavement and the design of the “waiting rooms” all reflect to the pattern of the pedestrian movement. Perhaps with a complex design based on a wider context, one could result a more efficient solution, however our team was looking for the best possible design, which is in line with the budget and the description of the brief.
EIN BOKEK PUBLIC BEACH AND SEA PROMENADE

This project transcended its initial parameters as an engineering solution to the threat of rising sea levels to create a revolution in the nature, structure and accessibility of the public spaces of the Dead Sea beachfront and adjacent tourist complex. The design of the promenade, which sits between the mountains and the sea, responds to the severe climatic challenges of the area, while the minimalist design language complements the stark beauty of the desert environment and creates a signature character for this unique tourist destination.

Today, the new, continuous sea promenade and its beaches have created a revolution in the breadth, nature, and language of public spaces in the Dead Sea tourism complex. The project now allows the public greater and more complete access to the coast and celebrates the rare resource that is the Dead Sea, while inviting all segments of the population to enjoy the beach and desert landscape, and to converge and commingle in the shade.

A RESILIENT AND BIO-ENHANCED URBAN OASIS

The Lev Levontin mixed-use project in Tel Aviv, Israel is a 72-unit housing project above a commercial façade. The buildings unique typology, driven by a triangular corner lot created an internal micro walled garden, on structure. A multidisciplinary team of designers and scientists developed a creative approach to meet the gardens’ aggressive challenges: its form, scale, light conditions and deliver a cozy, intimate, and pleasant environment. A series of green infrastructure strategies including air Condensate Harvesting created a self-sustained urban oasis where the tenants ‘produce’ the water that brings life and nature into the heart of the walled garden. Inspired by Burle Marx’s planted concrete walls, the landscape architect collaborated with marine biologists to develop innovative bioactive wall tiles. The same material that will provide coastal resilience to New York brings climatic resilience to this Tel Aviv garden. Though completed 18 months ago, the walled garden remains an outdoor laboratory with ongoing climate, concrete, and water related research coordinated with the developer and property manager, a major quality and achievement of this residential project.
The revitalisation of Kr. Barona street is a pilot project aiming at enhancing liveability in a systematic way of a car oriented public space within historical city centre in UNESCO protected area. The street is 3.2 km long, connecting suburbs with the old town, giving access to cars and tramway. It is an attractive and intensively used public space with unique historical atmosphere and spaces of diverse character. Although it preserved it’s street profile, this urban space could be described as degraded because of very poor physical condition, domination of traffic, nearly lost green infrastructure and absence of amenities. In order to address these challenges, spatial interventions included changes in traffic organisation, renovation of pavement, renovation of green infrastructure, inserting new amenities. New suggestion strips for bikes were created, speed was limited to 30 km/h, barrier free design principles were used organising street profile. Asphalt was replaced by historical pavement materials (cobblestones) for the road and new pavement was designed for pedestrian areas. Three level greenery (ground covering plants, bushes, trees) was created: ca. 90 new trees and 4000 bushes were planted. New areas for sitting, bike racks and planters completed missing amenities. This project is a first attempt of Riga city authorities to systematically approach street scape and green infrastructure issues involving inhabitants, professional non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders.
JAUNA TEIKA (NEW TEIKA) – MULTIFUNCTIONAL COMPLEX

Jauna Teika — multifunctional business, administration and apartment centre — is located between 3 neighborhoods: Teika, Ciekurkalns, VEF. It is story about oneself at 3 spaces: at work, at home and outside. Places identity is defined by 3 neighboring values and personalities related: Cinema Teika (T. Hermanovskis), Gardens (A. Lamze); VEF factory (V. Capa). These values are transferred to 3 landscape experiences: Cinema — stories told in pavements, Gardens — large proportion of greenery, Innovations — landscaping details. For the new public space: key word is 3 and key shape/element is triangle. Apartment building landscaping tells the story about the gardens — the place where families come together, the space joining neighbors, giving and showing possibilities, educating about the processes in nature. Plants are planned so that blossoming continues throughout the vegetation season. Office building public space is planned according to BREEAM requirements. As well as apartment building outdoor space, it is inviting to come outside — for meeting, for lunch break, to work — Jauna Teika will be the first outdoor place in Riga where by using solar energy oneself will have the possibility to charge mobile phone or PC. ALPS landscape architects are involved both in construction and also in maintenance supervision for this project.

DE CEUVEL

A polluted plot of land in Amsterdam has been transformed into a “small piece of paradise” through a community-driven development. De Ceuvel is now an eco-hub for creative and social enterprises. Almost all of the buildings are houseboats taken out of water and placed onto the land. With the use of clean technologies for managing water, energy, sanitation, and food production, as well as cleaning of the polluted soil using plants, the project is a demonstration ground for “closed loop” and regenerative urban development. The polluted soil at de Ceuvel will be purified by phytoremediation techniques, in which plants are used to clean the soil. A specially selected combination of plants is used to stabilize, break off and take up pollutants. This organic way of cleaning the soil and producing low-impact biomass results in a productive. After ten years, the entire site is returned to the municipality of Amsterdam cleaner than when we got it. The site’s compost toilets and biofilters will collectively save around 6 million litres of water from being used to flush waste and divert 10 million more litres into on-site biological treatment. The eco-retrofits and renewable energy production on site have saved an estimated 600 tonnes of materials throughout construction and will save over 200,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions throughout the site’s existence.
PARK LINGEZEGEN

The area between the Arnhem and Nijmegen is threatened by urban spread. The park counteracts this by developing recreation, nature and water. The 1700 ha landscape park turned agricultural lands in an attractive area. The design is based on the characteristics of the five parts of the park. The park’s 550 ha back-bone consists of scenic routes and nature areas. Development by local users is stimulated. De Park, near Arnhem and Elst, resembles a city park. The design is based on the former estate “De Parck” with its mosaic of lanes and orchards. The square of the house is a festival area. A 5 km circular path invites active recreation. Het Waterrijk is a new wetland with reeds, meadows and forests. The eastern part is designated for nature and water storage. The western part offers recreational activities (walking, cycling, canoeing) and connects an existing beach. De Woerd is situated nearby a new part of Nijmegen. Close to the Waal river, an “urban estate” develops with lanes and woodlands. A cooperative manages permaculture fields, deploying volunteers and selling products. In Het Landbouwland and De Buitens agricultural use dominates. Farmsteads and open views to the hills around are the main features. Consolidating the agricultural use will keep the open character. Plantings are restored and “pocket-parks” enhance the attractiveness.

DE-POLDERING NOORDWAARD, BIESBOSCH

De-poldering Noordwaard was the largest and most complex project of the Room for the River program. Its main goal was to increase water safety. To this end, primary levees in the Noordwaard polder were lowered, and about 25 miles of new, winding freshwater creeks were dug. These creeks are directly connected to the water in the Biesbosch, a freshwater tidal area. In this way, the water systems of the rivers Waal and Maas have been reconnected. Furthermore, about 28 miles of new levees were constructed: high and low, wide and narrow. And dozens of new bridges, pumping stations and mounds were built. The result is a robust, ‘readable’ water landscape for nature to thrive, and for people to live and recreate in. A contemporary take on the century-old pattern of levees and creeks. An elegant combination of the priority of water safety and new room for ecological connections and processes. This is how people can live with water in modern times. The new primary levee for Fort Steuragt is an innovative measure. A withy-bed in front of the levee breaks the waves, thus allowing for a lower crown. The cutting regime is such that one year one strip of willows is cut and the next year the other. This is the first withy-bed that is officially part of a Dutch primary levee.
**KLEIVODDEN VIEWPOINT**

The project has been designed in close dialog with the surrounding environment. From the rocks framing the construction, to the mountains in the background, the road and above all the ocean, the view and the unique light. Kleivodden was a popular place to stop also before the construction of the new viewpoint. From Kleivodden there is a panoramic view to the beaches, mountains and cultural landscape around the village Bleik. But the most important quality is the vision of the mighty ocean with constantly shifting weather and lighting-conditions, including the northern light. The site has been given a clean cut and simple design: A terrace was established as a deck in grinded concrete. The terrace was raised 15 cm above the road and the parking zone to avoid driving in and to organize the parking. The area is however accessible by wheelchair. To the south of the terrace, a staircase has been constructed, leading to the old road and with access to the ocean. The steps are 12 meter broad and functions as an amphitheater with sheltered places to sit and a fantastic view to the bird-colony island of Bleik. The areas of concrete are alternated by grinded stones of local granite Lødingen which reflects the light and the sky and provides robust sitting places. All design-elements are made to reflect the mountains surrounding Kleivodden.

**BRATTØRA HARBOUR**

Brattøra as a historical harbour- and industrial area has always had an immense influence on the development of Trondheim. But when the railroad was built in late 1800s, a barrier was created between the city and the fjord. When Brattøra Free Area opened in 2014, it quickly became a popular place to visit, for walking and experiencing the water, wind and weather at all seasons. The area also creates a long wanted connection between east and west. To the north lies a long, narrow plateau with a promenade containing elements in the sea: stairs that make it possible to enter the water, ramps, a pir and a pool for ebb and flow. People are invited to stay and rest, on grass or on sand, or do activities as swimming, jumping, fishing and walking, and at the same time the area provides room for passing-through biking or walking. The materials used already existed in the area, as the concrete, the green rocks and wood. Because of the amount of wind and the salt-content in the air, the planting is rough, naturally growing without pruning as often seen in other Norwegian coastal areas. Brattøra Free Area is an example of coastal development which re-establishes the contact between the ocean and the city, and gives the citizens back the possibility to walk to the sea and experience the forces of nature up close.
BJERKEDALEN PARK

Bjerkedalen Park has become a new park in conjunction with Groruddalsatsningen on the outer regions of Oslo. The park has become the new meeting place. A terraced pavilion provides functions such as an amphitheater with a view, café, restrooms, waste management around a large café plaza, acting as the park's central point. A central promenade and many smaller tour paths create a continuous trail network. Hovinbekken was daylighted August 1, 2013 after 50 years diverted in a pipe underground! It now runs open for 300m and accounts for a 15m height difference between Refstadveien and Nordalveien. Rapids, deep pools and small waterfalls create the perfect environment for fish in this ecologically-based project. A green canal with steps and seating edges down to the water are additionally a piece of the café plaza. The bathing dam to the south has a swimming depth of 3m. The planted riverbanks are planed with native, water-loving species such as elm, cherry, alder and willow create a green strip along the water's stretch. Colorful deciduous trees such as oak, linden and maple are planted along the slopes as reference to southeastern Norway's warm-loving conditions. 12 acres of flowering meadow and 6 acres of lawn provides green surfaces. The 50,000 planted perennials work as undergrowth and lush groundcover in addition to flowering meadow and fields.

“VISTULA BOULEVARD” - WARSAW WATERFRONT BETWEEN BOLEŚĆ ST. AND TAMKA ST.

The Vistula Boulevard is situated in one of the most attractive parts of central Warsaw surrounded by historical and new urban areas. The main objective of the project has been to turn the city back towards the river by creating a unique and universally accessible public space, which forms an urban continuity through improved walkability and offers recreational and social uses bringing local residents and visitors together all year round. The site's design provides for seasonal flooding. The boulevard is comprised of three main sections. The area opposite the Old Town celebrates its historic setting and responds to the classical layout. It includes a walkway with a docking deck, green zone and a relaxation hub with cafes floating on the river's surface. Another section concentrates catering services from a sequence of floating pavilions. The third section accommodates recreational and educational uses and has become the heart of the entire site. It consists of a park with podiums, a beach with pavilions, recreational lawns, an educational zone and expo stands. There are other fun fixtures such as trampolines, ‘splashing’ water feature and sculptures of fish found in the Vistula.
SŁUŻEWSKI
COMMUNITY CENTRE (SDK)

Project around Ślużewski Community Centre (SDK) is the response of the local society’s demand and program establishments of the Community Centre. The SDK has been functioning for many years in the current place. Our team was invited to cooperate with WWAA and 137 kilo companies, which won the architectural competition for the development of the area in 2008. The building complex alludes to traditional farms, which were located at this terrain till 70’s. The entire area is divided into three zones of various functions and character. It is an open urban path, modern village site and park with backwater and catwalk. Consistent, functional division enables to give a various character to every single zone. While entering the terrain opens through a wide panorama for the main entrance located at the bottom of the amphitheatre. In the next zone there are buildings, the amphitheatre, goats pen, social vegetable garden and playground. The scale and density of elements change depending on the age group of potential users. The establishment of the project is to apply pro-ecological solutions, consistent with Community Center’s activity. There are various functions implemented. These functions enable visitors to stop for a while in a vibrant city life, relax, make an occasional meeting. This place is a diversified area, filled with facilities to choose from.

LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AS PART OF A PARTICIPATORY PROJECT
“SUPERŚCIEŻKA” - SQUARE EILEGO

„Superścieżka” is the first placemaking project in Crakow. At the planning stage of the new investments along Powstania Warszawskiego avenue, city officials and private developers, decided to create one unified project of the landscape development for the whole area. The emphasis was put on the physical, cultural, and social identities that define this place in order to support its further development in that direction. That idea was possible to implement thanks to participation workshops with the district inhabitants. Marian Eilego garden square is the first implementation stage of the “Superscieżka” project. The project introduces an alternative communication system that puts an emphasis on improving the comfort of pedestrians and cyclists. In the park, the newly created intimate interiors encourage to rest. The modular concrete benches dedicated to this project and a fountain in the form of a “water mirror” occupy the center of the square. The playground is made from natural materials. The whole area is complemented by picturesque, naturalistic compositions of attractive all-year plants in the form of the perennial rebate, cover shrubs and numerous plantings of high greenery.
WOODEN CHURCHES FROM BANAT

Initiated as a project meant to rehabilitate and confer another life to a historical monument, Wooden Churches from Banat reoriented itself, from focusing only on the monument, to focusing on the community the church happened to belong to and moreover, on the cultural landscape that includes both monument and community. The first step was to provoke adults to narrate about architectural heritage, hence to re-invigorate local narrations and create a topic within the community (andropedagogy). Changing perspective on the monument and on the potential of the monument and after changing their way of dealing with the crops by not using additives, practicing organic agriculture, using the results and entering the full-market of cheap and non-biological products is an on-going and long term process. We also focused on pedagogy, getting youngsters of the community to be aware and to value the monument. Another type of education was preparing with non-formal means future specialists in heritage studies, offering students a reach to how a project develops itself, but also on a method we are trying to implement. We intend to prepare both community and young specialists with dealing with an all-changing living heritage, which they have to guard and transmit over, with as less interventions as possible.
ATLAS OF BORDERSCAPE

In the framework of the European Landscape Convention, the study "Increasing the value of the Romania-Bulgaria cross-border area landscapes" aimed at providing first elements to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional and cross border level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes so as to maintain and improve landscape quality and bring the public institutions and local and regional authorities to recognize the value and importance of landscape and to take part in related public decisions. The integration of the landscape dimension in the preparation of spatial management policies, both general and sectorial, will lead to a better protection and management of natural heritage in the cross border area.

In the framework of this study, the following tasks has been completed: an analysis of the current legislative situation concerning landscapes protection and management in Romania and Bulgaria, a methodology for the inventory, evaluation and classification of the landscapes in the cross border area, a technical documentation for the implementation of panoramic viewpoints, a report with recommendation of policies, measures and projects for the landscapes’ protection and the promotion.

LIPTOVSKÁ OSADA

The indoor greenery has its place in the housing culture from the earliest times and has gone through various stages of development. At the beginning, plants in improvised containers had productive functions. Later, mainly exotic plants were grown as an investment, or as valuable gifts for heads of states or prominent people. More recently, the function of the indoor greenery has shifted to a purely aesthetic one and the cultivation has expanded largely. Plants help to create a healthy environment in the interiors. In addition to oxygen production, plants increase air humidity. Hydroponic plants or plants grown in completely mineral zeolite substrates filter out toxic substances from the atmosphere (e.g. formaldehydes). Producers of indoor plants constantly adapt to current demand, search for suitable species in different parts of the world and constantly expand the assortment that can grow successfully even in less favourable conditions such as lower light intensity and others. In addition to plants grown in pots, different systems of vertical greenery have been recently introduced. Green walls could be called “ecoart” because plants can be designed into different shapes and patterns.
The Centrum shopping area is the centre of the northern part of the residential area Sídlisko III in Prešov. It is located along the north-south compositional axis and is the centre of public facilities that attracts pedestrians from the surrounding areas.

The main objective of the proposed solution is to turn the centre into an alive public urban space. Its visual concept is based on the geometry that requires a simple material conception. The basic principles of the solution lie in linking the individual levels using a “carpet” and communication opening. The undulating carpet integrates the functions of a square, communication, gathering places, zones designed for relax and a water element. However, the key element involves trees. Forty-three adult species Robinia pseudoacacia “Umbraculifera”, commonly called black locust, are arranged in a regular raster 6 by 6 by 6 metres. This solution ensures openness and passability of the internal space. The general urban gesture, namely, the inclusion of the undulating carpet, forms the main visual motif, dominating the entire square. The undulating geometry of the carpet creates a transparent scheme and arranges the space in terms of hierarchy, and at the same time also becomes a background on which individual levels of lights, benches and trees lie.

Public space on the roof, half plaza — half park was designed to “capture nature a provide urban feeling.” Landscape concept is based on four basic attributes: COZY, MULTIFUNCTIONAL, INTERESTING and CREATIVE. The main diagonal axis lined up by concrete bench is visually dividing the courtyard in two main halves. The park and the plaza. Vertically modelated park intended for residents use provides various internal paths with plenty sitting spaces, playground surfaced with attractive yellow rubber is making the effect even in winter or quality grass areas under the trees. Hardsurfaced plaza intended for office employees with diverse sitting options and fountain creates pleasant outdoor office space under modern shading structures securing users against wind and sun. Bicycle path and sidewalks connected to wider city network created a new visible popular spot in the city.
PLANICA NORDIC SKI CENTRE

Planica is hosting the ski jump contests from the early thirties and has gradually become a world-known centre for the World Cup Sky Flying Final. After the years of use the ski jumps needed a renovation and modernization and in 2009 the decision has been made to create a Nordic Ski Centre on the site. As Planica is set at the forefoot of the largest protected area in Slovenia and forms one of the most exciting entryways to the Triglav National Park, large sport facilities take their own, although a restrained stand. Planica is already symbolically charged which renders all excessive design redundant. The alpine setting of this precise sport ritual is unique and recognizable. The refinement of the image is thus added on other levels, mainly on those of use and orientation. The design follows technical and organizational requirements of a large sport facility by which it clearly reveals the new character of the space. It stands in contrast to the natural dynamics of the surrounding mountainous landscape and creates an organized, functional and technically flawless counterpart to the magnificent Alpine frame, perfected by the logic of engineering. The ski jumps that fan across the landscape introduce a spatial order that unites all elements into a non-hierarchical whole.

SMARTINSKI PARK PLAYGROUND

Šmartinski Park used to be a vast area of informal allotment gardens. In 2007 clearing of the area was executed and a flowering lawn mixture was sown. The area was open to public use while the design process started. Due to its vast dimension the transformation into a park was to be gradual. In the first phase only two basic walkthrough paths were erected, the terrain was reshaped and new large trees were planted while the remnants of the existing fruit trees were left on site. The playground was designed and built later. The initial idea was to provide a play area for all. The playground location was planned carefully, with a proper relation to the cemetery and out of impacts of the main road and power lines. The design team’s previous experiences with school and nursery kids participating in various play projects were used as most valuable baseline for a new design concept. The design itself was to provide spaciousness, playful terrain, water feature in combination with sand, lots of vegetation and play equipment with a diverse set of functions — a high climbing net with a view being one of its essentials. Playful water feature and path design were moulded to the park layout, adding soft curved circular shapes with high play value to the existing straight functional park paths.
REGIONAL SPATIAL PLAN OF SOUTH-EAST SLOVENIA

In the last 25 years the number of municipalities in Slovenia increased from 61 to 212 and in the year 2003 the Regional Spatial Plan (RSP) was established by the law as a partnership act between the state and municipalities. The RSP of SE Slovenia was prepared in the interdisciplinary team in the interactive process with numerous participants as a strategic spatial plan, based on professional bases, on directions of the state planning stakeholders and of municipalities and on analyses and evaluations of the landscapes, settlements and infrastructure. It defined strategic goals and directions for spatial development of the region: the urban system, economic zones, touristic areas and highly evaluated landscape areas were outlined, the directions for detailed spatial plans for the main infrastructure were defined, and also the mechanisms for the implementation and follow-up. In 2006, the preparation of the RSP was stopped due to the legal cancellation of the RSP as a spatial plan, so the results of the actual phase of the project were adopted with the consensus of all the municipalities and in the following years it was used directly as the professional basis for the preparation of the new municipal spatial plans in the region.

NIEL GARDEN

The parade ground of the former military barracks, which was closed with a high wall, now becomes a strategic point in the network of footpaths between the Garonne river and the Canal du Midi, Unesco World Heritage. A flat and uniform space, surely becomes a disrupted topography, reminiscent of the ancient relief of this high point. A series of hills provides a variety of views and atmospheres: hollow paths waving between the hills, intimate places, promontories and lookouts, outdoor amphitheater, water mirror, playgrounds and toboggans on the slopes. The large mineral surface is transformed into a waving and shimmering carpet, with a changing texture that goes from the most mineral, the brick, to the most vegetal areas where the two materials are interposed. It is the brick, emblematic materials of the city of Toulouse that builds paths and fades in the grass. A great sun drenched expanse of asphalt, crushed by the sun, becomes an oasis of greenery and freshness that children and birds freely invade. The static space is set in motion.
The aim of the project was to develop a tactical urbanism proposal able to achieve a real and tangible change despite the lack of economic means. Hence, we pursued an alternative way to develop the complex, considering the transformative role of highly proactive local entities and movements.

The project establishes a strong connected street network, enhances the existing vegetation while improving the water dynamics in favour of more sustainable drainage, and finally it suggests new possibilities for ordering and using the sector focusing on its activation through local organizations. Can Batlló has become the main center of leisure and activity within the district of Sants-Montjuïc. The old walls and fences have fallen, giving way to an overall improvement of the site’s connectivity.

The objective of this project was to connect an existing plot and building (The Hangar) with a new one (The Line). The idea was to create an interval space that would answer to the requirements of the circulations between the two buildings but also it would create a pleasant, green area that will be used by the employees as a break area. The first thing to do was to define the circulations for the pedestrians as well as for the firemen. After defining these paths, we introduced the information to a graphical algorithm editor in order to self-organize and optimize the required circulations of the employees between the two buildings, depending on the distance between them. Our next intention was to create green areas of different sizes between them. These green areas also “hug” the buildings and depending on the perspective of each one of them, they are organized in low vegetation areas and forest areas. Every green area/dune has a different topography, this allows us to transmit the flat grey perspective into a green scenery with dunes and small valleys. It has been completed the first phase of the project, which is concentrated mainly on the entrance of the plot (14448m²).
KRISTINEBERG AND HORNSBERG WATERFRONT PARKS

In the northwestern part of Kungsholmen, Stockholm, old industrial harbor areas have been transformed into a dense neighborhood with 3,000 homes and 10,000 workplaces. With the Kristineberg and Hornsberg waterfront parks, greenery and a new attractive boardwalk along Ulvsundasjön have been created.

Kristineberg strandpark is based on the baroque park’s grammar and its cultural roots in Kristineberg Castle, whose gardens once stretched down to the water. Three elements form the structure of the park. In the north a continuous vegetation and activity walk. In the south a slope with nature imitating setting inspired by the historic Stockholm School of Landscape Design and adjacent park areas. In the middle a vast lawn in three plateaus cut down to the lake where it ends in large wooden stairs. Hornsberg Strandpark is more than 700 meters long and consists of four parts. To the west lies a jetty for sunbathing with wooden docks in different lengths. East of it is Kajparterren, a horizontal disc slightly leaning towards the water which depicts the meeting between the street Lindhagensgatan and Ulvsundasjön. The third part is the organic meandering part of the park. Far to the east is an existing part that has been renovated to be more accessible.

THE CITY HALL PARK IN UMEÅ

Umeå municipality commissioned a design for rebuilding of the urban spaces along the main axis of the city, reaching from the railway station to the Ume River. The reconstruction was to reinforce the identity of Umeå as a young, vital university city, worthy of the title of the cultural capital city of Europe in 2014. Ramboll Landscape and Urban Planning in Stockholm had the assignment to design the urban spaces around the City Hall, the park and the dockside. The valuable qualities of the neo-classicist cityscape of Umeå have been conserved while reconstructing and enhancing valuable elements. The dockside has been created anew to harmonize with new city development. The light nights of the summer landscape are mirrored in the planting design of the park, whereas the white winter landscape is enhanced by the lighting design that gives the urban spaces a soft character and highlights the riparian landscape. The complexity of the project created a demand for highly site-specific technical solutions and tailor-made furniture and surfacing, while managing a tight schedule. The result clarifies the central axis of the city, creating new attractive spaces for a growing group of users.
**THE ARNINGE - ULLNA RIPARIAN FOREST PARK**

The Arninge-Ullna Riparian Forest Park project is part of a new urban district in the municipality of Täby. It envisions a new form of neighborhood park which combines biological conservation with the functions of an urban park, engaging with the city and nature as one intertwined entity. The park opens the riparian alder forest to the public while preserving the unique ecological qualities of the site. This is accomplished by making a few careful additions to the landscape. Wooden walkways of varying width are used to improve accessibility to the forest with platforms and jetty’s providing vistas over the Ullna Lake. The park is lined by pillars and signs of weathered steel, backlit and engraved with ecological information and poetic descriptions of nature in the form of haiku-poems by Nobel laureate Tomas Tranströmer. Broad walkways form the base of the new route into the woods, with narrow walkways branching out and allowing for exploratory detours into the greenery. Native trees and plants are allowed to pierce through the design through recessed ochre gratings and careful excisions in the wooden structures, symbolizing the philosophy that lies at the heart of the project.

**RENATURATION OF THE RIVER AIRE**

The project for the renaturation of the Aire is the backbone of a territorial and landscape reorganisation of the entire Aire plain. It is from the river that new relationships are established which balance, on the one hand, the needs of agricultural production, urban development and leisure areas and, on the other hand, the need to reconstitute extensive natural environments. The project consists in a real “restoration” of the territory, since it reconstructs landscape features — ditches, hedges, groves, marshes — almost entirely disappeared, but clearly legible on the historical documents. In the area reserved for natural environments (approximately 80-metre strip along the canal), the intensively cultivated open lands are replaced by diversified environments that allow the creation of a true ecological corridor that encourages the networking of biotopes and the movement of small fauna. The safety of property and people is one of the main aspects of this project, which makes it possible to manage floods while contributing to the restoration of natural and landscape values. It contributes to enhancing safety through water management and storage measures.
MURG-AUEN-PARK

The fact that all this is now possible on the approximately 44,000 square meter site on the northern outskirts of Frauenfeld is due to the performance of an interdisciplinary team, which initially does not correspond to the usual logic of project development: the focus was not on a need, but rather on a strategy to ensure the continued existence of this former army site.

At first, the idea of the project was to preserve the vacated army area as a “green finger” reaching into the city centre and to protect it in the long term by a clear form of further loss of substance. The multi-layered project was subsequently continued as an interdisciplinary planning in which the various disciplines of civil engineering, hydraulic engineering, landscape design, bridge construction and building construction were brought together under the design direction of Staufer & Hasler Architects to form a unified project. “Artificial” elements such as the buildings, the industrial canal to be revitalised, the new bridges and paths complement the “natural” elements such as forests and rivers. As it was a mixture of landscape architecture, infrastructure planning, architecture, flood protection and nature conservation, an interdisciplinary approach was chosen and its mechanics were defined early on in an organisation chart.

SCHÜSSINSEL PARK

The new island park connects older parts of town with densified residential areas and the new Swatch headquarters. It brings back the connection to the water. A quiet park – space for sports and leisure activities — a place of refuge for nature — a place by the water — engineering structures to provide protection against flooding: functional, sociological, town-planning and ecological demands became aspects that contributed to the design; the design became relevant from an ecological and technical perspective. The park world oscillates as a connecting factor between contrasts. The manner in which the terrain has been shaped has integrated flood protection in a subtle way; the entire island acts as an embankment, but it does not look like this. The main route winds its way along the crest of this invisible dam, safe from flooding. Thanks to the variable inclination of the bank the island’s shape changes depending on the height of the water; it grows or shrinks. Temporary flooding creates a dynamic picture and valuable habitats. The western section of the park is an open sunbathing lawn with views of the water and the urban skyline. The central section of the park is a thick forest garden. The third section of the park is home to fields and facilities for sports, games and family time.
ÇANAKKALE KORDON BOYU
WATERFRONT PROJECT

Çanakkale Waterfront Promenade (Çanakkale Kordon Boyu), is actively used during all seasons, and continues to function as public space for socializing, meeting, amenity facilitating, and for leisure. The role of the city of Çanakkale and its vicinities within historical process, and visual interaction with the Gallipoli Peninsula where Çanakkale Wars had been happened makes the waterfront even more significant than actually is. The City Centre and the coastal district are visited by domestic and foreign tourists in a great manner throughout the year. In this regard, an urban design project reflecting the modern face of the city and connecting strong physical connections with the city, that serves for both Çanakkale people and visitors, to let them enjoy and relax, to solve transportation problems (for pedestrians, vehicles, and bicycles), to have and organize various activities. A continuous pedestrian circulation system, sitting and relaxation areas, street and boulevard cafes, and urban furniture are designed at the urban area where the clock tower, the urban square, and the passenger pier exist. Coastal road, Kayserili Ahmet Pasha Street, has been reorganized in order to raise pedestrian comfort. The road is banned to vehicular traffic during summer evenings when pedestrian flow and density is high.

TERKOS OLD WATER PUMPING STATION MUSEUM

Terkos Pumping Station had been the water supply of Istanbul’s drinking water demand for over a hundred years, before it has lost its function and became an inert and abandoned space. However the site of Pumping Station, Lake Terkos and surroundings still maintain to be one of the most significant ecological areas of Istanbul. Reusing this area as public space, the station and surroundings were converted into Water Technologies Museum. Alongside its new function as a museum; transforming the area into a place of recreation while restoring the corrupted ecosystem along wetland, has been the fundamental aspect for design proposal. The observation towers that are attached to these spots to the walkways not only create a place for surveillance of water birds and bird immigrations while offering special perspectives and exposures, they also provide visitors with areas to stop, observe around and spend time in. The varying interactions with water of each visitors of every age group were established through the creation of stopping-resting-viewing points that embrace different flora and topography relations in the area. Developing the area in the concept of an ecological park with related elements has been the intention of this design by preserving the existing ecosystem and restoring it with limited interventions.
THE ARNINGE-ULLNA RIPARIAN FOREST PARK

Plane tree in Inkaya village, on the road to Uludağ Mountain in Çekirge District of Osmangazi Municipality in Bursa City, coetaneous to Ottoman Empire with 598 years is famous worldwide. This tree which is an outstanding nature monument, gets its name from Inkaya village, one of the first villages of Ottoman Empire. This plane tree is one of the oldest trees of Turkey. Its height is 35 meters. The crown width is 9.2 meters, the width of its branches going up to 3 to 4 meters. Inkaya villager’s income is predominantly generated through visitors of the tree which may go up to ten thousand visitors on some days. The tree itself was damaged due to commercial activities taking place just below it. Osmangazi Municipality opened up a tender process including settlement area of village and commercial area, among others, in order to improve the urban texture and the environment for the monumental plane tree. Solutions developed for the underneath of plane tree with heavy commercial activities enabled both surface water feed to the tree and took a step in preventing the damage of the tree roots due to heavy pressure from the ground. In addition to these, alternatives are developed for the solution of traffic and parking problem, as well as sales of rural local products.

ORCHID HOUSE.
ECOLOGICAL PARK

A unique social and cultural project for the reconstruction of depressed areas in the Center for Creativity and Education, preservation of the cultural heritage of the people of Azerbaijan, with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The aim of the project is to create a natural environment that inspires and supports creative youth, in an elegant atmosphere with tropical plants and the number of flowering plants year round. The project has an recreation area near classrooms with a small creek and gazebos, surrounded by a flowering garden. There is also a space for special events – Orchid House. All spaces of indoor garden equipped irrigation, mist and lightenings systems.
BRENTFORD HIGH STREET
‘MAKING THE CONNECTION’

Brentford has a unique location where the railway, canal network and River Thames meet. This point of exchange, particularly the relationship to water, historically informed Brentford’s Market Town character. However, its identity has gradually eroded. The ‘make the connection’ projects seek to remake Brentford High Street as a successful, liveable town centre and reassert its sense of place and identity. The design philosophy is rooted in the involvement of local people and in doing so exploring the potential of their environment. The different threads of the project: the cultural and economic venues of the market place and the sheds; cycling culture initiatives through Brentford works and Brentford Bikes; and walking connections opened up by the sheds project, all pull towards making Brentford a more socially sustainable and liveable place. The newly configured flexible space accommodates regular markets and events whilst also providing a living room in the town centre with a variety of opportunities for meeting and playing across all generations. Symbolising the shift in transport the car park that was previously central to the market square has been removed and replaced with a flexible public space that can accommodate the market stalls. Public water play features and a new willow tree reconnect Brentford High Street to its waterside heritage.

BRIDGET JOYCE SQUARE,
AUSTRALIA ROAD, WHITE CITY
COMMUNITY + SUDS SCHEME

An urban regeneration project with Community and SuDS at its heart. This landmark sustainable drainage project integrates community needs with surface water management throughout the whole design process. The result is a dynamic landscape that provides a valuable car-free, safe route to school, emphasises the Early Years Centre as a social hub, allows new community events such as a yearly fair and Christmas markets and encourages informal play at the same time as collecting, treating and storing rainwater to reduce flooding and river pollution. Features such as the ‘wiggly wall’ through SuDS storage basins and rain-sculptures provide a valuable re-connection with the water cycle for all ages.
THE WATER GARDENS, HEML HEMPSTEAD

The Gardens were designed by the renowned landscape architect Geoffrey Jellicoe and are a highly significant example of post-war twentieth century modernist landscape. They were placed on English Heritage’s Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in 2010. The project creates a revitalised and well-used park with a serpentine woodland walk along the River Gade contrasted with smooth flowing grass lawns to the water’s edge on the other side of the river. The centrepiece of the Water Gardens is its restored flower garden, with massed roses and colourful perennial planting set within a formal grid of beds. As part of the works, Jellicoe’s arched bridges over the Gade were renewed. New facilities have been provided to increase use and encourage people to stay longer. These include a new play space and a pavilion set within a working garden to provide facilities for the gardener, friends of the park, volunteers and students to develop new skills and learning to contribute to the high standards of maintenance. The Water Gardens project preserves a rare and highly significant example of mid twentieth century design. It restores its lost character, creating a revitalised, well used and busy park that functions as the primary open space for the town centre as was intended.
National Associations participating in the venture:
Österreichische Gesellschaft für Landschaftsplanung und Landschaftsarchitektur (ÖGLA), Union of Landscape Architects of Bulgaria (ULAB), Croatian Association of Landscape Architects (HDKA), Czech Association for Landscape Architecture, Section of the Landscape and Garden Society (CZALA), The Association of Danish Landscape Architects (DL), Estonian Landscape Architects’ Union (ELAU), Finnish Association of Landscape Architects (MARK), Fédération Française du Paysage (FFP), Panhellenic Association of Landscape Architects (PHALA), Hungarian Association of Landscape Architects (HALA), The Israeli Association of Landscape Architects (ISALA), Latvian Association of Landscape Architecture (LAAB), Nederlandse Vereniging voor Tuin en Landschapsarchitectuur (NVTL), Norske Landskapsarkitekters Forening (NLA), Stowarzyszenie Architektury Krajobrazu (SAK), Romanian Landscape Architects Association (ASOP), Slovak Association of Landscape Architects (SALA), Društvo krajinskih arhitektov Slovenije (DKAS), Asociación Española de Paisajistas (AEP), Swedish Association of Architects, Bund Schweizer Landschaftsarchitekten (BLSA), Turkish Chamber of Landscape Architects (CTLA), Guild of Landscape Architects of Ukraine (GLAU), The Landscape Institute (LI)

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