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# STUDENT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE DESIGN COMPETITION

*Topic: Urban boundaries*

Preceding the 48<sup>th</sup> IFLA Congress to be held in Zurich in June, HSR Hochschule für Technik Rapperswil, University of Applied Sciences conducted this year's Student Competition which generated an unprecedented number of 360 entries.

**Hochschule für Technik Rapperswil, Department of Landscape Architecture**

HSR is a leading institution in landscape architecture and the only university offering a Bachelor's degree in this domain in German speaking Switzerland. The competition was organized by Kerstin Gödeke, research associate at HSR.

## Background

Dealing with land as a resource in a sustainable way is a globally recognized goal. However, towns and villages continue to expand as long as there is sufficient space. The pressure on the landscape is growing. All too often it is still regarded as potential development land. In conjunction with these trends, the urban boundary is becoming critically important – it is the link to the open landscape that allows humans to meet their fundamental need to experience nature. The following factors have a direct impact on the physical structure of the urban boundary:

- Elements in the landscape such as topography, bodies of water etc.
- Ecology – biodiversity and integration
- The structure of developments and plots of land
- Density of the settlement area
- Intensity of use in the undeveloped landscape
- Ownership / availability
- Function and use, particularly accessibility to the area, access within the area and mobility through the area
- Aesthetics
- The urban and rural picture and visual references
- Sociological aspects
- Human constants such as the view, proximity to nature, identification and water

## Assignment

The population's preoccupation with the value of potential development land plays a crucial role in this expansion. Landscapes have environmental, cultural, economic and other values, all of which influence patterns of development. This competition was based on the thought that the greater the economic value attributed to undeveloped land, the more indiscriminate the inappropriate development will be – and hence the concern about protection. Entrants were asked to choose one example of an urban/rural transition/boundary in which the values for land are in conflict. Their task was to propose a landscape architectural response to it and to show that urban boundaries can be positive transitional elements between the urban landscape and undeveloped land, if they are planned and designed properly. Entrants were invited to develop conceptual proposals and plans for the use and design of urban boundaries using a specific example of their choice.

## Eligibility

The Competition was open to all students of Landscape Architecture, or allied discipline (where a country or university does not include a formal Landscape Architecture program). Both individual and group submissions were accepted. The number of members in each participating group should not exceed five.

## Jury

The jury consisted of five members: Prof. Beverly A. Sandalack, Research Leader from the Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary, Canada (jury president); Andy Cao, Loeb Fellow 2010–11, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, USA; Maïke van Stiphout, DS Landschapsarchitecten, Amsterdam; Prof. Christoph Jensen, School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, Germany; Prof. Joachim Kleiner, Landscape Architecture, HSR University of Applied Sciences, Rapperswil, Switzerland. In order to best accommodate the internationality of the entrants, the set-up of the jury aimed at reflecting good diversity in all its aspects.

## Awards

The first three places are presented on the following pages. In addition the jury identified seven projects for acknowledgement of achievement: ● "Fishpondscape - Urban Transition Zone Landscape Planning and Design in Deep Bay of Hong Kong" (#197); Students: Liu Tong, Yu Cong, Zhang Yang, Zhang Jin, Bi Rutao, Beijing Forestry University, China; ● "connecting\_worlds" (#060); Students: Marius Ege, Christian Zink, Universität Stuttgart, Germany; ● "Rooting Rural Communities" (#147); Students: Emily Miller, Kelly Bergeron, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, United States; ● "Cell Engineering - the Rescue of Moribund Urban Boundary" (#036); Students: Yue Xu, Jinmu Li, Yezhou Fan, Ke Liu, Tingting Li, Suzhou University of Science and Technology, China; ● "[E]merging Landscapes: a comment on urban boundaries" (#246); Students: June Paaskesen, Rikke Welan, Copenhagen University, Denmark; ● "Growing Boundary: sustainable recovery of the mangrove at Pearl River Delta" (#047); Students: Chen Yan, Ran Wu, Min Xue, Yang Li, Chengjiang Hu, Beijing Forestry University, China; ● "Border on the "implantable landscape": pondering on the transformation of a flying dust arena" (#122); Students: Xin Man, Jing Li, Minyu Zhang, Jinqing, Hua Zhao, Beijing Forestry University, China

The competition jury established that from the contributing Swiss universities, nearly all papers were at a very high attainment level. Three of the five entries submitted were amongst the best 20.

# 1ST PLACE

Group Han Prize for Student Landscape Architecture, USD 3500

Title: Layers of time (#0239)  
 Students: Vasiliki Nikoloutsou  
 Isavella-Ines Dironomopoulou-Paraskevopoulou  
 University: National Technical University Athens, Greece

Comments of the jury:  
 This project deals with Kotichi Lagoon, an aquatic bio-system of international significance and the most important ecosystem of Peloponnese in Greece. The transition of the lagoon from gradual natural evolution, but mostly from unsustainable exploitation, as well as insufficient management, have irreversibly degraded the landscape. This proposal considers the borders through a new definition of time, and considers protection of the fauna and flora of the area, together with human movement, circulation, education and framed views.

The jury commended the clear and strong narrative, and the contemporary approach of dealing with the landscape as well as cultural issues. This is a very convincing project that pushes the boundaries between many disciplines and is not afraid to touch on the ephemeral and intangible concept of time. It is subtle, and could be realized with minimal intervention. The presentation is graphically very strong and poetic.

## biodiversity circle of time

The area is equivalent to the nest.  
 The proposal works primarily as a protective shield to the fauna and flora of the area, bringing back the cycling time.  
 The nest's weaving works conceptually and organizes the various relations between the living organisms that live in the area.  
 The different layers are traced:  
 the flying of the birds,  
 the movement of the water and the fish,  
 the matter flow.



## flora

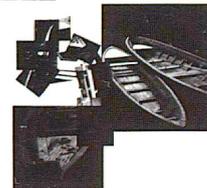
- Anthemis arvensis
- Anthemis cotula
- Anthemis tomentosa
- Aster squamatus
- Aster trigulium
- Attractylis gummifera
- Bellis annua
- Bellis perennis
- Calendula arvensis
- Carlinia corymbosa
- Centaurea niederi
- Centaurea solstitialis
- Campanula versicolor
- Laurentia gasparinii
- Hypochoeris glabra
- Hypochoeris redicata
- Inula crithmoides
- Inula viscosa
- Leontodon hispidus
- Leontodon tuberosus
- Logfia gallica
- Euphorbia oxiqua
- Euphorbia paralias
- Calycotome villosa
- Coronilla emerus
- Dorycnium hirsutum
- Glycyrrhiza glabra
- Hymenocarpus cirratus
- Lathyrus aphaca
- Lathyrus clymenum
- Lathyrus setifolius
- Lotus angustissimus
- Anagallis arvensis
- Asterolinum linum-stellatum
- Duby in DC
- Coris monspeliensis
- Samolus valerandi
- Anemone coronaria
- Anemone pavonina
- Clematis vitalba
- Delphinium peregrinum
- Nigella damascena
- Ranunculus ficaria
- Ranunculus neapolitanus
- Ranunculus sardus Grant
- Ranunculus trichophyllus
- Foeniculum vulgare Miller
- Oenanthe fistulosa
- Oenanthe pimpinelloides L.
- Oenanthe silaifolia Bieb.
- Oenanthe tenuifolia Boiss. et Orph.
- Pimpinella tragium Vill. ssp.
- Pseudorhiza pomila (L.) Grapde
- Smyrniolus fronsdorfii
- Harfangium murinum L.
- Hyperbentia hitra (L.) Stapf
- Imperata cylindrica (L.) Raugschel
- Lagurus ovatus L.
- Lamarckia aurea (L.) Moench
- Lolium multiflorum Lam
- Lolium rigidum Gaudin
- Lophochloa cristata (L.) Hyt.
- Faniculum repens L.
- Parapholis filiformis (Roth) C.E. Hubbard
- Parapholis incurva (L.) C.E. Hubbard
- Festuca paspaloides (Michx.) Scribn.
- Phalaris nigripes Retz

## fauna

- Ardea cinerea
- Ardea purpurea
- Ciconia nigra
- Ciconia ciconia
- Fregata fulvicollis
- Platycleis leucoroula
- Phoenicopterus ruber
- Cygnus alor (PouBoC)
- Cygnus cygnus
- Anser albifrons
- Anser anser
- Tadorna ferruginea
- Tadorna Ladorna
- Anas penelope
- Anas strepera
- Aythya fulgula
- Aythya marila
- Somateria mollissima
- Melanitta nigra
- Melanitta fusca
- Bucephala clangula
- Mergellus albellus
- Mergus serrator
- Pernis apivorus
- Milvus milvus
- Circus macrourus
- Circus pygmaeus
- Pandion haliaetus
- Falco naumanni
- Falco tinnunculus
- Falco vespertinus
- Falco columbarius
- Falco eleonorae
- Falco biarmicus
- Falco peregrinus
- Cathartes aura
- Falco atre
- Hematemps ostralegus
- Himantopus himantopus
- Corscorus corscor
- Glaucous pratincola
- Charadrius dubius
- Charadrius hiaticula
- Charadrius asiaticus
- Charadrius morinellus
- Pluvialis squatarola
- Scolopax squatarola
- Limosa limosa
- Numenius phaeopus
- Numenius arquata
- Tringa erythropus
- Tringa totanus
- Sterna caspia
- Sterna sandvicensis
- Sterna hirsunda
- Steroptopelia turtur
- Psittacula krameri
- Columba glandarius
- Cuculus canorus
- Tyto alba

## flow waterline time: undefined

Slow motion. Return to the beginning point, being guided by the water flow.  
 Reaching the border through the water, with small boats.



## master plan

1. entrance| visit
2. stop| watching
3. exposition| concentration
4. observation
5. going down| lagoon approach

scale 1:2000

layers of time | scales of nature

## fixation

## continuous line 25 min walk

Southern side design. Limited tour.  
 A first reading of the area, quick tour.  
 Line above water.  
 Visual contact with the lagoon.  
 Cultural, environmental education.  
 Opening to the space.

## function

- a. sounds| projections
- b. species of the site| exhibition
- c. laboratories| handicraft
- d. small vet| wildlife care
- e. utility rooms

scale 1:200

## 2ND PLACE

IFLA Zvi Miller Prize, USD 2500

Title: Vibrant Land (#0199)

Students: Jorrit Noordhuizen

Inge Kersten

University: Wageningen, Netherlands

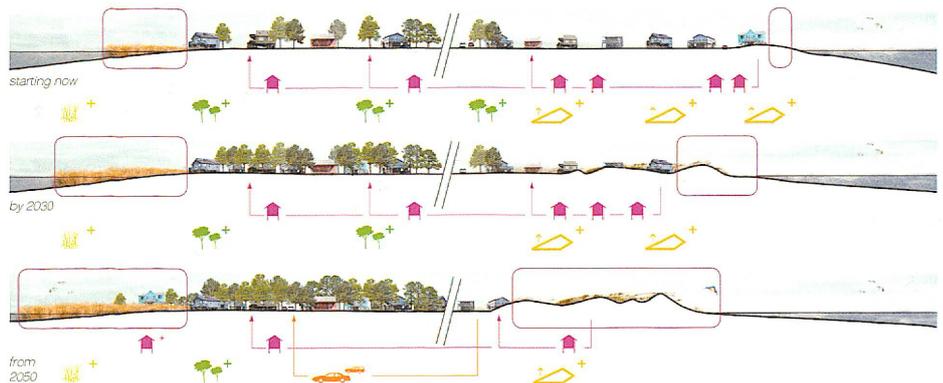
### Comments of the jury:

This project deals with the dynamic landscape of the barrier island coast of North Carolina. The urban area at the shoreline clashes with the natural flows of the landscape, resulting in a landscape of loss and destruction, so that natural boundary areas between urban and rural have almost completely disappeared. The project shows that in order to transform this landscape into a sustainable and attractive environment, it is necessary to enable natural and human flows to interact. The dune landscape is rebuilt, and a new public space typology is introduced that engages natural and human flows, utilizing most notably a simple designed wooden structure that has great versatility of use.

This project succeeds in proposing landscape to live in, rather than landscape to simply be consumed. It emphasises the process of remaking a more sustainable landscape for living, and a more attractive



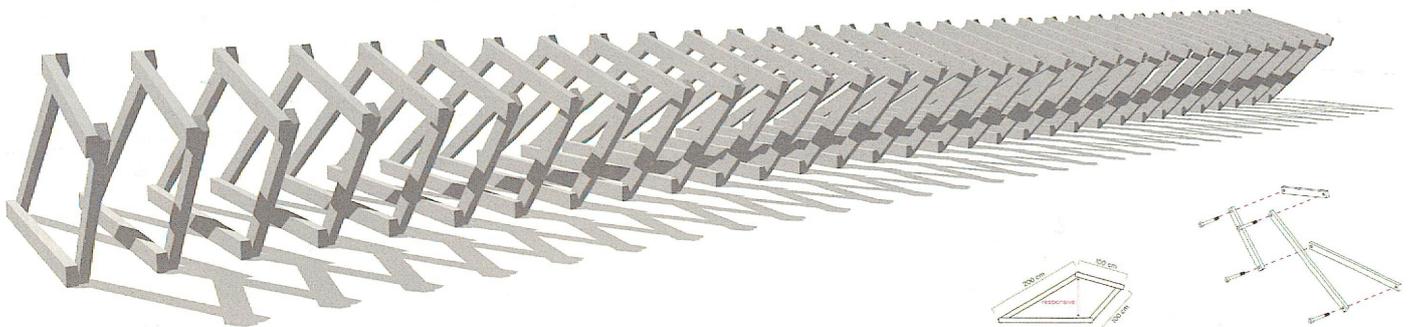
6. Summer-landscape in transformation (year 2050) - increase in human occupation, a seasonal land use program unfolds.



9. Transformation in cross-sections, enlarging boundary areas.

landscape for experiencing, notably considering this throughout the seasons. The use of the wooden structural element is variously concealed and revealed, resulting in subtle and variable landforms. The pro-

ject includes the interesting notion of using sand, an element that is constantly shifting, but that is anchored around one element. Playful and functional at the same time. Graphics were very convincing and clear.



Natural demands; sand fencing and building dune landscape.



Cultural significance; Folding / unfolding the structure and giving it a deeper meaning.



Assignment: engaging the shifting natural and human flows to re-gain the vibrancy, safety and resilience of this coastal landscape.

# 3RD PLACE

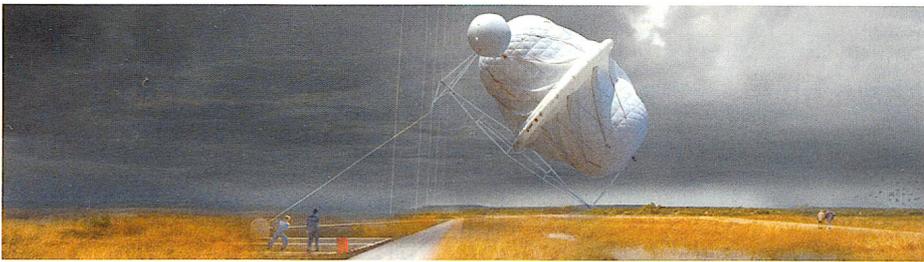
BSLA Merit Award, USD 1000

Title: Vertical Densities (#0321)  
 Students: E. Scott Mitchell  
 Amy Whitesides  
 University: Harvard GSD, USA



## Comments of the jury:

The South Weymouth Naval Air Station (SOWEY) is a 750 hectare ex-military base located at the convergence of 3 suburban towns. In reaction to proposed plans for SOWEY that do not adequately address the region's economic, land use and environmental issues, this project considers the site as a public regional resource and a potential prototype for urban development. It protects and replenishes freshwater resources, provides flood control services, conserves habitat for endangered species, and serves as a testing ground for emergent high altitude wind generation technologies that could serve as an economic resource for the region.



The jury found this to be a powerful and artistic submission that considers energy and the investigation of alternatives for an inevitable future without many of the conventional energy sources. The project proposes a multi-layered landscape that most notably explores the airspace through innovative considerations of various uses. The sky is the limit with this project! Graphically the project is superior with some visionary decisions about how to communicate the ideas which resulted in a highly integrated presentation.

