

International Student Competition.
Landscape architecture, Thessaloniki, Greece, 2014
landarch-competition2014.web.auth.gr

Re-designing the cityscape from the forest to the seafront: Tritis Septemvriou Street.

Introduction: THE THEME

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary for the establishment of the first academic program in Landscape Architecture in Greece (2003-2013), the Post-Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki announces an international student design competition, on the subject of the re-synthesis of the cityscape of Thessaloniki's Tritis Septemvriou Street.

The Program in Landscape Architecture is offered by the School of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, and the School of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, administrated by the former.

The competition is under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and the City Council of Thessaloniki.

It aims at promoting landscape architecture projects within the context of a socio-ecological and perceptual approach, for regeneration, sustainability and upgrading of the urban environment.

The theme refers to a physical corridor, running from the slopes of Kedrinos Lofos to the seafront of Thermaikos Gulf, along with the adjacent urban sites or grounds of significant importance, but fragmentarily attached to it: Waterfront Park and Promenade, City Hall, Archaeological Museum, Museum of Byzantine Culture, International Fair, Military Headquarters, Early-Christian archaeological findings, two University Campuses, Underground station, Sports Museum, sport fields, the Hortatzidon stream, and Kedrinos Lofos.

Students are asked to develop planning ideas and innovative design proposals in order to reform the landscape image, upgrade the environmental qualities and values, enhance the unique landscape identity and promote sustainability. The final goal is to transform the existing urban landscape into a viable space for inhabitants and visitors, by taking into consideration the site's potential for: re-establishment of the lost continuity by eliminating space fragmentation, public life and perception, ecological upgrade, and implementation of sustainable environmental practices.

It is important to assess the quality of the proposals on the basis of the following three criteria:

Landscape architectural quality

Quality of urban living

Environmental awareness

Article 1. ORGANISER

The Post-graduate Program in Landscape Architecture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Article 2. PARTICIPANTS

The competition is open to all students of landscape architecture, landscape design, landscape planning, architecture, town and regional planning, engineering, agriculture, forestry, art etc.

The contestants may be grouped into multidisciplinary teams. It is suggested that the team is composed from at least two different disciplines (e.g. a landscape architect and an architect or town planner).

Each contestant or group is allowed only in one entry.

Article 3. THE SITE

The theme involves the Tritis Septemvriou Street, starting from the forest on the hill of Kedrinos Lofos on the north-east, leading to Thermaikos Gulf seafront on the south-west, as well as surrounding open spaces, grounds and fields, as indicated in plans and photographs available in the Downloads menu of the competition site, landarch-competition2014.web.auth.gr/downloads/.

Article 4. THE CITY

More information related to the history of Thessaloniki, the cultural and urban landscape can be found in the form of an additional text, in the same site menu mentioned above. Important environmental and ecological data are also included.

Article 5. PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED

5.1 Respond to the theme

The drawings will have to address required specifications as defined in the Introduction. These must include landscape analysis, conceptual plan with a descriptive title, master plan and detailed design proposals.

5.2 Format, page layout, title, presentation of drawings in English language

All drawings must be delivered in (3) Panels in A0 (84.1 x 118.9 cm) format, in portrait mode, according to the modalities in 5.3.

Panel 1

Landscape analysis. Concept Plan. Scale 1:2500

Panel 2

Master plan. Scale 1:1000.

The area will be presented in two parts, in adjacent columns in the panel.

Panel 3

Detailed design proposals for 3 urban sites. Scale 1:500.

At least one section and one visualization for each one of them are compulsory.

All panels may include diagrams, sketches, images, annotation etc.

Each panel must include the project's Descriptive Title in English (Arial, 60 pt, bold type, capital letter or equivalent) on a 5cm horizontal strip on the top of the panel. Each team must have a typical 5-digit serial number (of the same font size as the Descriptive Title), which must appear on the right top corner of the strip.

ATTENTION: ALL PANELS MUST BE ANONYMOUS.

5.3 Display: The presentation standards given in these rules are compulsory

- The scale (both in number and graphic) and the North sign should be shown on all plans.
- The visual points, the direction and angle of the views of sketches and/or photographs must be numbered and indicated by a view angle on the corresponding plans, for a plan/view reading.
- Text may be included in Panel 1 and 2 (number of words in total 1000 maximum)

5.4 Presentation of the qualities of the proposal

The three basic criteria, 'landscape architectural quality' (in spatial design, ecology, and perception), 'quality of urban living' and 'environmental awareness' should be clearly illustrated on the drawings.

Article 6. PROCEDURE FOR SENDING THE APPLICATION FILE

The project and the accompanying documents will be sent by post to the following address:

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE.
ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
Faculty of Engineering, School of Architecture
Thessaloniki 54124, Greece

In digital form:

A. A pdf file with a text in English, describing the design proposal (analysis, concept, design strategies/aim etc.), saved under the name: Description_of the_proposal_.pdf. The text should be in A4 format, maximum 4000 words in Arial 12 pt.

B. Three A0 format pdf files (corresponding to each Panel), resolution 300pixels/inch, saved under the name: title_of the_project_a1.jpg, a2 and a3 respectively, in English language.

In print form:

C. The description of the proposal in print, A4 format [as in (A) above]. At the end of the text there will be attached the 3 panels in A3 format, folded to fit the A4 print.

D. In a sealed envelope, a text including the descriptive title of the design proposal with the typical number of the project, and for each contestant separately: a. the surname and first name, b. School, Faculty and University of study, c. e-mail address, d. telephone number, e. School confirmation of student identity.

Article 7. KEY DATES

- Announcement of the competition: 3 March 2014
- Submission of questions: 30 April
- Announcement of answers: 30 May
- Submission of proposals: 1 September 2014
- Announcement of results: 14 November

Article 8. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE, JURY AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

8.1 The Technical Committee

- A. Papadopoulou, architect, landscape architect
- Dr. E.A. Athanasiadou, agriculturist, landscape architect
- V. Charistos, architect, landscape architect
- E. Charalampidis, agriculturist, landscape architect

8.2 The Jury

Jury members

- Dr. Maria Ananiadou-Tzimopoulou, Professor, School of Architecture
- Dr. Ioannis A. Tsalikidis, Professor, School of Agriculture,
- Georgios Papakostas, Professor, School of Architecture.
- Georgios Zoidis, Emeritus Professor, School of Architecture.
- Dr. Aleka Karadimou-Gerolymou, Emeritus Professor, School of Architecture.
- Dr. Sotirios Tsiouris, Professor, School of Agriculture.
- Dr. Maria Tratsela, Lecturer, School of Architecture.
- Dr. Magda Pitsiava, Professor, School of Civil Engineering.
- Kostas Varotsos, Professor, School of Architecture.

International judges

- Michel Corajoud, Professor ENSP, Ecole National Supérieur du Paysage, Versailles
- Dr. Simon Bell, Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu, ECLAS President
- Valerio Morabito, Professor, School of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania.
- Robert Holden, Head of Landscape, University of Greenwich, Visiting Scholar at Istanbul Technical University

8.3 The selection procedure

The Technical Committee will examine and transfer the entries to the Jury, indicating those which have not respected articles 2, 5, 6 and 7, and will be disqualified from the competition.

The selection of the entries will be carried out in two stages. In the first stage, the Jury, comprising of landscape architects, architects, ecologists, town planners, engineers, urban artists, will examine all the entries. Those entries considered to be exemplary, will be forwarded to the second stage.

In the second stage entries are evaluated on landarch-competition2014.web.auth.gr, through a point system of 1 point (minimal note) to 3 points (maximal note) for each of the three criteria:

- Landscape architectural quality
- Quality of urban living

- Environmental awareness

Article 9. PRIZES AND DISTINCTIONS

The “International landarch – competition 2014” prize is awarded to five proposals in total. The proposal which obtains the best score in the general classification will receive the first prize of 3000€. According to the score, there will be a second prize of 2000€, and a third prize of 1000€. Two distinctions will also be awarded with 500€ each.

Article 10. ORGANISER’S RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMUNICATION

10.1 Intellectual and artistic property

The contestants remain the owners of the drawings entered in the competition and of their utilization rights. Nevertheless, the organizer reserves the right to reproduce drawings as well as the name and the photograph of the contestants to organize public relations or information actions at its own discretion. Any physical or legal person wishing to use the works of the teams must send a request to the organizer.

10.2 Organizer’s liability

The organizer reserves the right to shorten, defer, postpone, modify or cancel this competition for any reason whatsoever. The organizer makes a commitment to try to inform the contestants, but cannot be held liable.

10.3 Interpreting the rules

Participation presupposes the unreserved acceptance of the competition rules.
The organizer has exclusive powers to interpret these rules.

10.4 Communication

The website landarch-competition2014.web.auth.gr will display the winning sketches with the names of their authors, the selection committee’s opinion and their ranking.

Advertising of the results of the international competition will be sent to the main professional journals in the countries interested to publish the winning proposals.

A DVD on the theme and the results of the competition will be created for teaching purposes.

The organizer of the competition may hold an exhibition of selected proposals.

Please send all requests for additional information to
landarch.competition2014@gmail.com
Tel. 0030(2310)994372, Fax 0030(2310)994399