

European 9

Sites in Sweden and Estonia

Jury motivations

Nacka

The site brief asks for a centre of Nacka, a polycentric and fragmented municipality. The site houses the town hall, and has two attractors in the form of a shopping mall and a school. Other than that, the large site is mostly devoid of built structure and offers few connections. This creates a complicated task for a young architect.

First prize: NR001 Nacka rings

This is an innovative proposal that creates a new vision of living. By marking the hills, an important feature on the site, undulating ring road formations are created that contain buildings for residential and commercial purposes, as well as parking and recreational areas. The proposal does not create a new city centre, but does also not create a suburb. Rather, it conforms with the landscape, dealing with the properties on site. The new public space is not in the form of a central square outside of the city hall, but built into the infrastructure of the rings. The proposal does not meet the programme in terms of density, but may be developed in building height as well as in number of rings. It is also possible to add other forms of structure in between the rings. The proposal is beautifully presented but lacks images of the ambience.

Runner up: SN002 Nacka guide

The proposal has savoir faire to fill the whole site, and consists of different, accurately placed parts, which indicates a good understanding of the site. It meets the programme for housing, with a simple, noise protected block structure towards the motorway, and another solution on the hilly sides in the southeast. In terms of urbanism, the proposal may be developed by more than one author. Although the proposal locates the characteristics of the site, it also lacks in ideas and quality of the developed spaces. The boulevard does not convince as filled with street life, and the bridge over the motorway is not realistic.

Honourable mention: ML666 Nackastan

An unarticulated and simplistic grid structure covers an area much larger than the site. Innovation here lies in the vertical division of the blocks in different parts. The public space in front of the existing town hall shows good quality, with a two-faced arena that also functions as a landmark seen from the motorway.

Tjörn

Tjörn offers a beautiful Nordic country site. It is situated in a strategic position that is rewarding to work with. The programme is comprehensible, and deals with questions of commuting and sustainable transportation.

First prize: HW996 Entré

The proposal makes a clear gesture, as in the picture of the local small wooden pier. It has a strong idea to put all programmatic content in one simple floor plan, a beautiful composition with a few elements. This is a flexible solution in which one may add things later. The distribution of smaller, independent "boxes" within the pier will also function in different climatic conditions or seasons of the year. The proposal is a landmark, which can be seen with a glowing reflection in the water when entering the island from the bridge, and the connection to the water is maintained all around the year. The car park by the water could work, but the overall plan of the area is not functional and must be reworked, particularly the parking solution must change. The cost of moving the bridge will be very high, but the proposal can be adapted to its present location.

Runner up: CB138 The thin red line

A proposal in an adequate scale that demonstrates the possibility of a compact travel centre. The proposal is depending on a seductive slender walkway platform along the shoreline, but which may not necessarily correspond to the local requirements of the site. Generally, the proposal lacks in

description and detailing, and it is not possible to read the character of the buildings. There are also some difficulties in the busses and parking logistics.

Upplands Väsby

The municipality of Upplands Väsby wants with its station area to benefit from the regional communication possibilities. The station area is a complex site with no identity to refer to. It needs a densification to function as such and within the small city.

First prize: UB778 Follow the line

The proposal solves the programme in a simple way, and is appropriate in scale to the area. The connection to and through the tracks is simple, and the proposal creates a well working public square and a good relation to the Centralvägen road. The nearby small river is formed in a fittingly modest way. The overall organization in a pattern of straight lines, however, is decorative and weak, and does not promote the actual connections on the site. The housing scheme is flexible and general, and possible to develop in order to improve some of the following difficulties. The house type is small and therefore expensive. It is not clearly demonstrated how the noise barrier will work, or if noise protection is needed on all rows of houses. The relation between the housing scheme and the surrounding green areas and nearby star shaped houses is unclear.

Runner up: UP507 Flow

The main elements of the proposal, the housing, station and square, are distinct and characteristic. The most significant qualities lies within the housing scheme, but it does also create a “wall” that could be better placed in the landscape. The public square has a scale and design relevant to the site, but the travel centre some unclarities in its structure. The overall connections are somewhat complicated.

Honourable mention: JL791 The tube

The proposal creates a clear metropolitan sign for the municipality, with a scale of the transportation that passes it rather than that of the city itself. Although the proposal is unrealistic, it shows the possibility of making a bold statement with relatively simple means.

Tallinn

Paljassaare harbour offers a challenging site for young architects. The site brief asks for a transformation of the industrial port area into a new urban centre with mixed-use buildings. As the architectural qualities are practically missing at the site in present time it is hard for the participants to have a clear understanding of the context and existing references. The vision of the area’s future presented by the city, which was included in the brief, didn’t help very much in clarifying the circumstances. Also the limits of the project site are unclear and arbitrary. The programme is too ambiguous. This probably explains the lack of high-quality proposals for this site.

Non of the entries were quite up to the level of quality expected in the competition, therefore the jury decided to award only the runner-up prize and honourable mention for the Paljassaare site in Tallinn.

First prize: None

Runner up: GS 567 Developing a waterside access

The project gives a good starting point for the development of the area, but in general it lacks a layer of information that would make the project complete in the European competition context. If it had been presented as a purely strategy project for planning, it should have included some regulations or certain guidelines for the planned buildings. If the emphasis had been on architecture, it should have been further developed. The authors provide a good basis for the city for further development therefore the jury highly recommends the city to continue working on the project together with the authors. On the other hand, in its incomplete stage the project leaves many open ends for the city, hence providing the necessary flexibility. The project presents a good overall study of the area. The logic of the whole site is well analysed from the strategic point of view, which makes the entry a good strategy project. It does not concentrate only on the project site but sees a bigger picture. The authors show their ability to understand the city fabric and extend it to the project site, creating also a nice

coastline. Architecture on the other hand is too schematic, too cliché and too much of a one-liner. Architectural part is solved by a single outstanding object with a simple form which comes across as not a very sophisticated solution. While the scheme presents a kind of urbanism that can be filled with different types of architecture, the success of it depends very much on the quality of architecture.

Honourable mention: SP 541 Urbland

Positive points:

- clear and simple overall structure
- multi-layered public space with believable scale
- good mixture of building types with suitable scale for the area

The competition entry proposes a multi-layered public space around the coast. This complies with the city's main intention to open up the waterfront for the public. The effort to occupy it with architecture with direct contact to water is positive. The proposal attempts to give identity to the public space, but the solution is not very convincing. The scale proposed for the public space is suitable and believable. The idea of having separate public space for summer and winter use is clever. At the same time the elevated glass "tunnel" is hard to imagine working as a public space in reality. The undulating bridge integrated in the design of the major cultural facility is a nice idea, but questionable in the execution. Although the structure of the overall scheme is clear and simple, the urbanism it creates in terms of spatial characteristics is confusing and vague. The proposed zoning is not really working for the site, turning the area into something between urban and suburban environment. The scheme doesn't really offer anything new and innovative. With an identity of many towers the proposal contains a good mix of building types with suitable scale for the area but the architecture is quite confusing.

Tartu

Tartu offers a large empty natural area for future development right next to the existing Soviet-time residential district. The central part of site contains protected rare plant species that eliminate the possibility of building there. The site brief asks for a new type of housing area with all the necessary social services and infrastructures. The site poses fair circumstances for the participants with a clear intention expressed in a clear programme. Being an important area for future development in Tartu, it is a good choice as a site for the European competition.

First prize: PL243 Urban ecosystem design

The competition entry proposes an innovative approach in planning an environmentally sensitive area. It starts by defining the voids that are not suitable for construction and the final scheme grows naturally out of the existing natural conditions. Preserving the unique natural conditions as a starting point logically leads to a questioning of the density proposed in the program. The jury sees this as a relevant contribution to the discussion about a further development in this area. The architecture evolving from this approach is also delicate, and in accordance with the surroundings. The overall quality of space that will be created depends very much on the architectural quality. The authors show that they are sensitive architects and able to provide the quality that is needed. The success of the scheme depends on a will from the authorities and a future client to see it as a regulation of volume and outline wherein different projects and dwelling typologies can be developed. The risk remains that through materialization the scheme might lose its intricate quality. As one of the aims of the European competition is to promote innovative ideas, the jury decided to award this project with all its risks and shortcomings in meeting the number of housing units asked.

Runner up: BG044 Pockets of illusion

The scheme shows good connection to the existing structure, relating well to existing Annelinn. The proposal contains a good combination of several types of housing, which are well integrated. The solution for the green area as central park is positive. The scheme is very thoroughly drawn through, making it spatially well understood and easy to follow. It is clearly realistic as well. The proposed urbanism has a quality that enables to be realised by several architects. Public/private spaces are well defined and resolved. The proposal contains different types of public spaces: neighbourhood space, natural space and open public space. The project concentrates on the street as a neighbourhood space having sort of a village image where cars, children, businesses all function together in harmony. This might be true in other cultures, but in the local culture it's quite unrealistic. The project is a real master plan that is possible to be realised in different phases. At the same time, the proposal suggests no new

ideas. It is not very site specific, similar developments can happen anywhere. In the area of the wetlands the scheme becomes quite vague and the solution questionable. This area is clearly more poorly handled than the rest of the project.

Honourable mention: NA124 Community links

The proposal suggests a new concentrated city neighbourhood that is quite different from the modernist housing blocks and single-family housing areas. With its rigidness it provides a nice balance to the Soviet-time Annelinn. The scheme holds an interesting contrast between the different densities. The different areas are well separated (cars, pedestrians). The project contains diverse public programs. The entry proposes a kind of a ring road that follows the logic of the existing road scheme. The street pattern might work in plan but spatially the streets end nowhere. The length of the housing blocks is undefined and in some places the way the housing blocks end seems arbitrary. The housing blocks are appealing in section showing a good sequence of public, semi-public, semi-private and private areas. A kind of a messy building section shows the acceptance of the messiness of life. The urban scheme holds the attitude that is directed more towards the public. Housing units face the street, which expresses more communal approach. The drawback of the overall scheme is its single-level character, its monotony even. The scheme needs focal points. Nevertheless, it's a powerful scheme with a new typology that does good things for Tartu.