

Jury report
European 10, Sweden
Stockholm, 2009 12 18

The jury procedure was divided in two sessions. The first session was on the 12th to 13th of October, the second on the 16th to 17th of November.

The Jury

Leif Sjögren, chairman of the jury, head of the planning department at the municipality of Motala
Regina Bittner, urban scientist from the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation in Germany
Markus Degerman, artist from Uglycute and director of Nordic Artists' Centre in Norway
Petra Gipp, principal of Petra Gipp Arkitektur in Stockholm,
Kamiel Klaasse, principal of NL Architects in the Netherlands
Petra Petersson, principal of Realarchitektur in Germany
Aryan Sikkema, building director of the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam
Marianne Skjulhaug, rector of Bergen School of Architecture in Norway
Inger Sundström, director of the urban planning department at the municipality of Örebro.
Leif Brodersen*, dean of the Royal School of Architecture of Stockholm

*Substitute for Marianne Skjulhaug at the second session.

Other participants in the jury procedure:

European Sweden

Anders Johansson (secretary of the jury)
Erik Wingquist

Site Kisa

Ture Göransson, city architect (site contact person)
Åke Almqvist, vice president of the municipality board
Anders Lind, municipality director
Anders Ljung, chairman of the municipality board
Sigvard Olsson, vice president of the municipality board
Sture Strömberg, secretary of planning

Site Lerum

Sandra Trzil, planner (site contact person)
Andreas Lidholm, head of planning department
Emma Karlsson Bruhn, planner
Finn Söderpalm, chairman of the board of construction

Site Mora

Gunnar Israelsson, civic planner (site contact person)
Konny Kolping, city architect

Site Östhammar

Ingmar Lönngren, city architect (site contact person)
Christian Blomberg, head of planning department
Gunilla Delwall, chairman of the board of construction

Kisa

Site and task

Considering the scale of the city and the fact that many inhabitants are commuting, the competition area is concerning a rather large part of the town. The assignment is to create a travel centre and an activity house as well as to present a general organization of the site into a whole. The public transport hub is an important part of the identity of the centre. The brief is asking for different ways of improving the public qualities both by proposing built structures and by developing connections and landscape elements. The way the project is relating to the main square is important as well as how the new urban development relates to the existing character of Kisa. There were many entries that lacked precision in the reading of local conditions, not only in terms of scale but also in terms of economic capability. One important part of the development is its feasibility to develop the project in different stages, with each stage as an entity. A singular mega block is lacking this potential.

Winner – Poly (HO187)

Eyvind Bergström (SE) & Rickard Riesenfeld (SE)

The centre of Kisa consists of a variety of townhouses representing different layers of the history of Kisa. 'Poly' is continuing this tradition and proposes a scheme of several different buildings. They are highly individual in character and operating on different levels. In spite of their individuality they manage to create a sense of coherence. The space in-between becomes a valuable asset to the public space of Kisa. 'Poly' resolves a paradox. You could say it is a suburban way to create urbanity. A sequence of ingenious small-scale interventions will catalyse city life. The project is 'light' while still creating intensity. This seems to be an appropriate approach for Kisa. In terms of aesthetics, the buildings, like little gems, speak different languages. 'Poly' plays a clever game with archetypes. For instance, if you work with the typical appearance of a fire station, you might no longer find a good reason to create a tower. Although vital for the 'signage' of the building there is nowadays no longer a need for drying the hoses inside a tall structure. But by turning this now purely symbolical feature into a climbing wall a new function is introduced that can fulfil the emblematic character. Another quality is the way that the project is creating identity with a variety of individual typologies, like in many smaller towns (the church, post office or liquor store). A surprising capacity of the parts is their ability to upgrade the quality of the existing structures. The project is at the same time outspoken and sensitive to its surroundings: explicit in a respectful way. The engine depot suddenly becomes part of an interesting sequence. It now blends-in in a 'natural' way. The proposal radiates a profound love for Architecture, and for the town of Kisa. The jury was not entirely convinced of the qualities the hotel can achieve, but other components like the station house were considered as sublime.

Runner Up – Urban nature (MM009)

Marcelo Andres Ranzini (IT) & André Furtado Roque Martines Da Mota (PT)

This scheme is presenting a type of development that is providing a new urbanity to Kisa. It consists of a series of buildings that can act as one structure but can also be divided into separate units and developed over time. The orientation of the site as well as the topography is let to inform the buildings and through this strategy new intermediate spaces are proposed. A roof that suddenly is acting as a terraced landscape is an example of this strategy, and the proposal has spaces with potential qualities on many levels. The overall distribution of traffic needs to be transformed in order to provide for a better flow of the bus movements. This project may offer a new identity to the site, as well as a long-term plan for how to develop the area.

Honourable mention – Scattered Fragments (KS123)

Jolanda Oud (NL)

A large perforated roof is connecting the two sides of the track and providing shelter for the commuters. The geometry of the project is generated from a reading of the site where different parts are connected into a network and transformed into a structure. The jury finds the project out of scale. The jury is also puzzled by the unclarity of the connection over the railroad tracks, when it seems to be such a vital part of the concept. At the same time this strategy has a strong singular appearance and the space that is created can add a totally new element to Kisa, providing views of a future public transportation hub.

Lerum

Site and task

The site will be undergoing a large transformation since the local water purification plant is to be disused due to the integration with systems of neighbouring municipalities. This previously closed area will become part of the public and open space along the lake Aspen. This creates large possibilities for mixed-use development. The task is to plan a continuous recreational sequence, as well as a residential area. The proximity to public transport and the lack of apartments in the municipality form a starting point for the development of the area connected to the public walkways along the lake. Noise is one aspect to relate to, as well as keeping the site accessible for the public. The scale of the site and the current redevelopment process are basic factors. It is therefore important that the winning scheme has a strategic framework, making it possible to be developed in functional stages. The scheme must have the potential to include different actors: public as well as private investors. The jury found many projects that were based on a conceptual reading of the site, transformed into large-scale interventions. A number of proposals were based on the development of one specific typology, which had to be implemented on large parts of the site. Although a singular conceptual approach could develop a strong identity, many of the proposals with one single idea are simplistic in the light of the complexity of the site.

Winner – Lerum Dérive (MJ837)

Jesús Mateo (ES) & Marco Pusterla (IT)

The project presents a theoretical framework with reference to the situationist movement, Pollock paintings, Altman chronology and other fields connected to a line of thinking that encourage the non-linear, drifting and a nomadic relationship to nature. The project has a strong narrative element and uses abstract drawings to stress an ambition to create a proposal rich of experience. The proposed plan is containing many different elements and has a mixed use programme. The residential part of the project is framed by commercial and public buildings. The problem of noise is treated with a remodelling of the landscape. The jury sees a strong potential in the ambition to create a rich spatial experience. It is a project with many different elements, something that can be useful in a more process-oriented development where new actors can be integrated in the scheme. There are some parts of the project that need to be transformed or even removed, but the success of the project is not in the exact outline of the plan but rather in the creation of an ambitious and imaginative starting point.

Runner Up – Weave of Senses (OI101)

Tomas Hansen (SE), Lars Almgren (SE) & Viktor Lekander (SE)

At a first glance, the project resembles a Corbusian approach to planning with a mega block inserted into the landscape, acting as a bridge over the highway and the railroad. With a more detailed study, the project is acting on many levels, with the main objective to create a public shoreline and to enhance the connections crossing the motorway and the railroad. This scheme is concentrating the residential development into two thin lamellas and treating the rest of the area as a public park with various programmes (hills, wind power park etc.). A new canal is also proposed and this new system is passing under the highway, providing a new ridge on the eastern part of Lerum. A strategy of this kind would create a strong landmark. It would become the entrance gate to the municipality and insert new dramatic landscape features with a large potential attraction. It creates an innovative type of urban space: two slabs with a canal and pedestrian sidewalk in between. It would give Lerum the impression of a big city between the Scandinavian capitals. Everybody who passes by on rail or road will remember this place. The high density has also high quality. A large green area near the lake is made available for a variety of public use. However this is also a project that is rather fragile. As a strategy the whole complex may fail or be a success, depending on the further development and management of the public and private areas. The noise from the motorway must be prevented to enter the canal zone between the slabs, which would change the dramatic view from the motorway.

Honourable mention – Symbiotic Landscapes (MM123)

Francisco Antonio García Pérez (ES), Dorota Maria Kurazynska (PL), Salvador Ubago Palma (ES 1977) & Maria De Las Nieves Reina (ES)

The proposal presents four different landscapes, each with different readings of how to integrate the urban tissue with the natural elements on site. It is a rich project containing a huge variety of elements exploring this theme. The proposed structural elements are ranging in scale from large residential blocks to small pavilions. Many of the elements are connected to a symbolic interpretation of various topics and elements on site. This can be illustrated by how the local water purification plant is kept and its relation to the coastline is creating a new frame for a waterside development. The project has a strong poetic understanding of the place, but it is partly difficult to understand whether one is to read the different elements as proposed structures or as a conceptual starting point in an urban process. The jury finds the project full of qualities, especially in its small scale Interventions. Some of the larger structures are however lacking the imagination seen in the elements of the project.

Site and task

The brief is asking for a development on several different levels. The main tasks are a residential housing scheme and a public space that can accommodate the infrastructural needs of the ski race Vasaloppet. The programme also requires a strategy for how to reuse the “Pink House”, one of the existing buildings on site. The scale of the development is regarded as important, where a low-rise development is preferred by the municipality. It is also requested to provide views towards the church. The brief has emphasized the historic and geographic importance of the site and the role of tourism within the community. In addition the brief has asked for proposals that are dealing with the symbolic importance of the city of Mora and the seasonal impact of the ski race on the site. Finally the topic of sustainable development should be a strong element in the submitted proposal. In the discussions the jury found it difficult to find a scheme that managed to propose a convincing solution to all the different elements in the assignment. The problem of how to integrate the public spaces with the residential development seemed problematic in many proposals. Furthermore, the submitted proposals did not convincingly approach the specific circumstances regarding the seasonal events and the issue of mobility and traffic caused by the tourism. Considering these factors, the jury was not able to find a winning proposal that answered all questions. After a discussion, the jury found those projects most interesting that take into consideration the identity of the place and offer solutions for how to balance the effects of tourism within a lived community. Instead of providing all answers, the awarded projects provide innovative strategies that can be developed in dialogue with all involved actors and then create something unique.

Winner - Looking back, looking forward (LP224)

Iwan Thomson (SE), Kyrre Westengen (NO), Fergus Bittner Sorlie (NO) & Tom Gam (DK)

The project is based on an analytical and playful approach where the local building tradition and the existing vacant housing stock is incorporated in the planning. This provides a design strategy where the vernacular elements are acting as a framework in the development of a new block structure. It does not only address the technical aspect of sustainability but also alternative means of recycling and reuse, providing new possible interpretations of this topic. The result is a small-scale block structure with many different spatial situations that are adapted to local conditions. The project suggests a development in phases and provides a plan that is expanding outside of the project site. However the main quality of the entry is not the proposed plan as completed, but rather the possibilities this adaptive approach can have. In this process there are many elements that needs to be considered. Issues like open views towards the church and the integration of the “Pink House” can be elaborated, as well as how the Vasaloppet is using the site. The jury finds the project full of potential to act as a tool to develop this part of Mora into something both unique and functional.

Runner Up – Just around the corner (DS007)

Ola Gustafsson (SE), Ulrika Tegner (SE), Nina Andersson (SE) & Tobias Appelbäck (SE)

This proposal presents a low and dense scheme, producing a heterogeneous and varied urban fabric. It contains a series of urban spaces with different character. The structure consists of three different types of blocks, where the southern perimeter is lower to maximize the amount of sunlight entering the courtyards. Every five or six blocks are linked to a service tower. A mixed-use programme is proposed where some of the edges are devoted to commercial functions. The seemingly random town plan has been carefully worked out. The proposed scheme is layered by many ideas. The dense low scale development strategy leads to a clear urban ambience. The mix of small squares and narrow streets between the blocks create a diversity of urban spaces that, as the title of the project implies, can be found just around the corner. A north - south orientated park across the site indicates the required connection between Saxviken and Österdalälven and connects the new housing to the travel centre. The scale of the park as well as the way it has been integrated into the scheme as a whole seems very appropriate. The park also acts as a link between the existing Pink House and the new development. Although there were some doubts about the actual logistics regarding Vasaloppet it is clear that the scheme would allow for the necessary adjustment. The proposed service towers did unfortunately not convince the jury as they seemed out of scale in relation to the rest of the proposal and not well integrated into the scheme. The Jury found the scale and town planning strategy very successful and with a large potential for further development.

Honourable mention – The camping effect (GV123)

Carmelo Rodríguez Cedillo (ES), Rocio Pina Isla (ES) & David Pérez García (ES)

This project is treating most of the site as a dynamic landscape and by doing so the entrance to the city is perceived as a park, thus providing the required views toward the church. The landscape has the potential to house various activities during the Vasaloppet weeks as well as provide the city with other activities during the rest of the year. The housing scheme is concentrated to a dense singular block that is layered to contain different programs on different levels. The title of the project is referring to the top layer of the residential block where a system of pavilions is transformed into temporary homes for the ski race participants. Many playful ideas are creating a diverse and intense building. Although the proposed housing scheme does not relate to the scale and urban fabric of the existing town of Mora, the project is interesting from a strategic point of view and provides an interesting analysis and a strong vision.

Site and task

The possibility to develop the waterfront with a hotel and a spa is a great opportunity for Östhammar. With these elements and its historical context, the site will be a vital node in the future planning of the town. The jury has found it important to consider the site as part of the public path along the coastline. It is important that the public character will not be disturbed. A number of proposals develop the shoreline and into the water, leaving the park largely unbuilt and thus open up for attractive solutions. However, this can be problematic not only in terms of accessibility, but also for technical, practical, environmental and not least important for legal reasons. This led to a discussion within the jury regarding the implementation. Many of the proposals show one or two big buildings or structures. For operational reasons, it is important to have the hotel and conference centre located together indoors. But the jury has found it difficult to fulfil the programme in one single building without breaking the small-scale character of the town. Does Östhammar need a building or a vision? After an intense discussion, feasibility was considered an important factor in the jury's final decision.

Winner – Parklife (HJ071)

Johan Arrhov (SE) & Henrik Frick (SE)

The project offers a straightforward and elaborated strategy for how to develop the site. It has a limited footprint, preserves the park, enables lines of sights and provides a clear differentiation between private and public elements. The organisation of the hotel is solved by an internal courtyard, providing circulation and a public space. The project has a strong and clear narrative element and offers a convincing set of arguments. It is also a scheme that seems easy to implement, especially in relation to most other proposals. The ambiance and aesthetics of the hotel should be powerful, in order to attract conferences, businessmen and tourists. This is a factor that needs to be highlighted in the further development of the project. The impression of the scale in relation to the town should also be studied.

Runner Up – Hus (MT010)

Marta Maria Roy Torrecilla (ES) & Tijn Van De Wijdeven (NL)

This project offers the possibility for Östhammar to create a unique place. The programme is divided into a series of individual buildings with their own character. The development is both connecting to traditional types of buildings in terms of scale and geometry as well as introducing a contemporary expression. Many of the pavilions are placed in the water and connected by a network of boardwalks. The ones that remain on land are sunken in the landscape, creating a dialogue with the existing park. However, to situate such a large part of the programme directly on the water may be problematic, related to the discussion of implementation and feasibility. Thus the jury has been discussing whether or not it is possible to keep the qualities if the project was redeveloped on solid ground. Although perhaps unpractical, "Hus" offers a fantastic potential for the development of the site.

Honourable mention – Strandlinjer (LM116)

Lotta Wersäll (SE) & Martin Styring (SE)

Strandlinjer proposes two linear elements, crossing each other and stretching out in the water in two directions. The hotel reuses the site and the direction of the old society house, while the other "arm" contains the conference centre in the park and the spa, attractively located on the islet. It thus also forms a bridge and becomes part of the public path along the shoreline. The proposal manages to concentrate the hotel and conference centre in one building with a scale and structure that has an affinity to Östhammar, where for example the linear element is present in the harbour north of the site. The street views towards the water are taken care of. "Strandlinjer" also leaves most of the park and offers a most convincing scheme for connecting and restoring the waterside parks on the site and in the centre of Östhammar. The proposal is quite realistic and fulfils the programme. The architectural treatment and the division of the long volumes could however be further developed.