

**International
Architectural
Design
Competition
for the**

Thessaloniki ConfEx Park

Jury Report



September 2021

TIF-HELEXPO S.A.

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ConfExPark

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

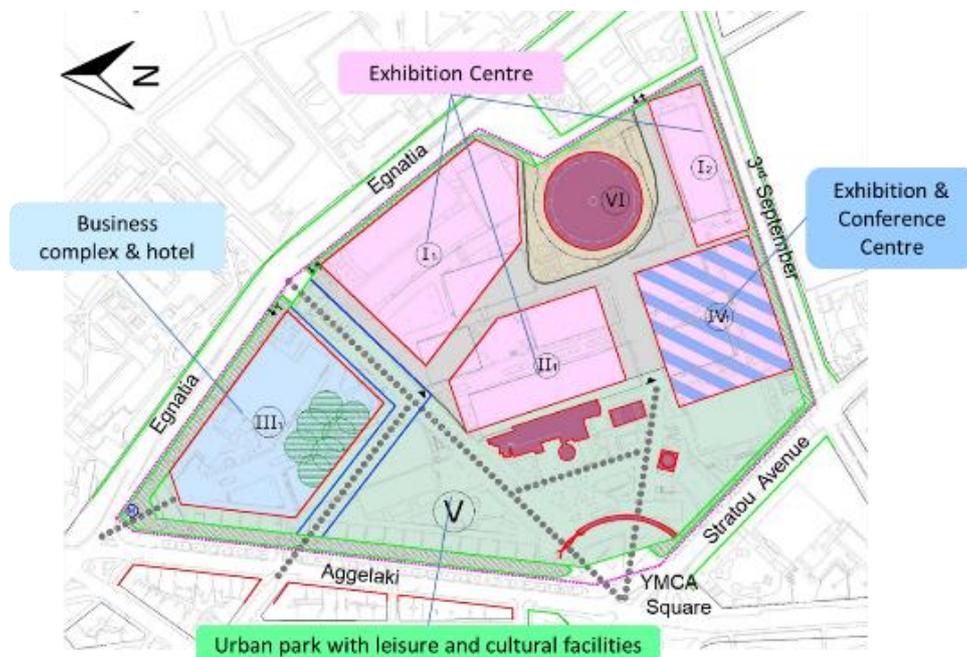
Thessaloniki is the second largest city in Greece with a population of more than 1.1 million in its metropolitan area and is the administrative, cultural, and business center of northern Greece.

TIF-HELEXPO Fairgrounds are located in the heart of Thessaloniki, surrounded by two important university campuses (Aristotle University and Macedonia University), the Archaeological Museum, the Byzantine Museum, the Town Hall and the Regional Military Base. The Fairgrounds directly affect the function of the urban center of Thessaloniki, as well as the life quality of its residents, thanks to the central position they hold.

The premises of the Exhibition & Congress Centre were built during the period from 1955 to 1990 and, thus, are old, inefficient, energy consuming and in the completion of their useful lifetime. TIF-HELEXPO is launching a redevelopment project for the whole Fairgrounds area, with the construction of a state-of-the-art Convention Centre, together with a new urban park

1.2 The goals of the project

TIF-HELEXPO S.A. is envisioning a project that will dominate the downtown area of the city of Thessaloniki. The ConfEx Park aspires to have a major impact on the economy of the city, by significantly contributing to its transformation into an important international business and tourist destination.



The architectural Competition aims at the construction of a state-of-the-art, iconic, Exhibition & Conference Center of the highest standards that will optimize the arrangement of its facilities and activities. One of the main project goals is to contribute to the redevelopment of a major part of the city center, a redevelopment

that shall have a major impact on the economy of the city contributing to the transformation of Thessaloniki to a significant international business and tourist destination.

The project will be a landmark for the whole city and a milestone for the business history of the broader region. TIF-HELEXPO S.A is expecting innovative, high-quality, unique architectural proposals for a visionary project that aspires to become an exceptional example of future cityscape developments establishing close spatial connections between business areas and buildings as well as green open spaces.

1.3 The evaluation criteria

The Jury evaluated the Design entries on the basis of the following evaluation criteria, given below in no specific order of importance:

- Adequacy and clarity of the overall concept
- Identity potential and capacity to create a new landmark for the city
- Integration of the complex with the urban, natural and social environment
- Design quality of the proposed buildings, the open spaces and the park
- Functionality of the complex
- User friendliness and inclusiveness of the complex
- Sustainability aspects
- Feasibility and economy of the project
- Creativity and innovation
- Holistic approach and coherence of the proposal.

1.4 The type of competition and eligibility

The “INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE THESSALONIKI CONFEX PARK” was an international, one-stage architectural design project Competition conducted in a restricted procedure.

The Competition was preceded by the Prequalification. The Prequalification aimed at selecting the Applicants, who were most capable of providing successful solutions for the specific complex project. The Prequalification was a preliminary step of the Competition, which was organized in one stage. During the Prequalification, from the Applications received, the Jury shortlisted fifteen (15) Applicants based on predefined criteria. At the end of the Prequalification, the selected Applicants, were entitled to participate in the Design Competition. All Design Entries were presented to the Jury responsible for evaluating and ranking them and determining the winning entry.

Eligible to participate in the Competition were architects from all countries of the world, authorized to practice architecture in their country of residence/establishment. Applicants were also obliged to fulfill the regulatory requirements of the Competition Regulations. Groups of natural and/or legal entities could be formed for the participation in the Competition, provided that all members of the Group are jointly and severally liable vis-à-vis the Organizer (joint Application).

Legal and/or natural persons that could not participate in the Competition or assist/consult the Applicants and Competitors were those involved in the preparation of the Competition Brief, members of the Technical Committee, members of the Management Team, Jury members, Competition consultants and experts, the Organizer's, Juror's and all following individuals': i) employees, ii) members of the BoD, iii) subcontractors, iv) spouses, v) first and second degree relatives as well their in-laws.

1.5 UIA endorsement

The Competition is endorsed by the International Union of Architects (UIA) and was conducted according to UNESCO---UIA Regulations for international design competitions in architecture and town planning, adopted by the UNESCO general conference and the UIA Best practice Recommendations stated in the UIA Competition Guide (www.uia-architectes.org).

All Regulations and guidelines, as well as Jury member selection, are conform to the rules and recommendations of the UIA. The Competition brief and appendices was approved by UIA International Competitions Commission (ICC).

1.6 The Organizer

TIF-HELEXPO S.A. is the national exhibition and conference organizer in Greece and a leading company in the exhibition industry in Southeastern Europe. TIF-HELEXPO is based in Thessaloniki, where it owns and manages the largest Exhibition & Congress Centre in the country.

The Organizer is responsible for financing the Competition and overseeing all matters related to it. TIF-HELEXPO will endorse the Jury's decision and organize the follow-up measures of the Competition results.

As private entity TIF-HELEXPO S.A. is a contracting authority not subjected to the Greek public procurement law.

1.7 The international Jury

The Jury was consisted of nine (9) regular jurors and three (3) alternates, listed below:

- JOAN BUSQUETS, Prof., Urban Planner & Architect, Chair (Spain)
- FARSHID MOUSSAVI, Prof., Architect (Great Britain)
- RENA SAKELLARIDOU, Prof., Architect (Greece)
- SIMON EWINGS, Architect (Norway)
- SAMULI MIETTINEN, Architect, UIA Representative (Finland)
- ARETI MARKOPOULOU, PhD, Architect (Greece)
- IRENE DJAO-RAKITINE, Landscape Architect (France)
- DIMITRIOS KERKENTZES, MSc, BIE Secretary general (Great Britain)
- KYRIAKOS POZRIKIDIS, PhD, CEO TIF-HELEXPO S.A. (Greece)

Alternate Jurors

- FANI VAVILI, Prof., Architect (Greece)

- SIMON HARTMANN, Prof., Architect, UIA Representative (Switzerland)
- DANIEL FÜGENSCHUH, Architect, (Austria)

UIA Observer (present only at the jury sessions concerning the evaluation of the competition entries, not the prequalification sessions)

- REGINA GONTHIER, Architect, ICC Co-Director (Switzerland)

1.8 Prequalification

The first Jury Meeting of the “International Architectural Design Competition for the Thessaloniki ConfEx Park” met in video conference on December 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2020 for the Prequalification procedure and the review of the Applications submitted according to the Competition Regulations. All Jurors and alternate Jurors participated at the meetings held on the above mentioned dates.

After reviewing the Applications submitted based on the Qualification criteria of Section 3.3. of the Competition Regulations, the Jury Meeting, in five (5) voting rounds, selected the fifteen (15) Applicants qualified to proceed to the Design Competition as Competitors (hereinafter referred to as “Qualified”) and the three (3) replacement Applicants (hereinafter referred to as “Replacement Applicants”), ranked in order of preference, based on Section 3.10. of the Competition Regulations.

List of the fifteen (15) Qualified Applications (in alphabetical order):

- **ALA ARCHITECTS LTD.**, MARELD LANDSKAPSARKITEKTER AB
- **AMANDA LEVETE ARCHITECTS**, STUDIO SEILERN ARCHITECTS LIMITED, VLADIMIR DJUROVIC LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE INTERNATIONAL SAL OFFSHORE , FHECOR INGENIEROS CONSULTORES, R. ÚRCULO INGENIEROS CONSULTORES S.A.
- **BRUTHER ARCHITECTES**, ROBBRECHT EN DAEM ARCHITECTEN BV, LIST, GLOBAL - ARCHITECTURA PAISAGISTA LDA, SCHNETZER PUSKAS INTERNATIONAL AG, DUSS BV (DEVELOPING URBAN SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY)
- **HEATHERWICK STUDIO LIMITED**, M. DEDA AND ASSOCIATES CO, BURO HAPPOLD LIMITED
- **HOPKINS ARCHITECTS LIMITED**
- **KENGO KUMA AND ASSOCIATES**, AKT II, HILSON MORAN PARTNERSHIP, GEORGES BATZIOS ARCHITECTS (G.BATZIOS MIKE), DOXIADIS+
- **LINA GHOTMEH — ARCHITECTURE**, VOGT PAYSAGE + URBANISME, LAN, LOT I.K.E., TRACTEBEL ENGINEERING S.A., SYSTEMATICA S.R.L.
- **OMA STEDEBOUW BV**
- **PROEM ARCHITECTS-PROEM GENERAL TRADING**, YANNIS KITANNIS (OKTANA), OMETE S.A.
- **SAUERBRUCH HUTTON**, GUSTAFSON PORTER + BOWMAN, ELENA STAVROPOULOU
- **SOU FUJIMOTO ARCHITECTS INC.**, GUY NORDENSON AND ASSOCIATES STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS LLP, CRACKNELL LANDSCAPE DESIGN LLC
- **UNSTUDIO**, SCHEMA4 - STUDIES OFFICE G.P., OKRA LANDSCHAPSARCHITECTEN B.V.
- **VALODE & PISTRE ARCHITECTES**, MICHEL DESVIGNE PAYSAGISTE, VP & GREEN ENGINEERING, ESPACE TEMPS
- **WILKINSON EYRE ARCHITECTS LTD**, GRANT ASSOCIATES, BIODIVERSITY BY DESIGN LTD, ELENI PAVLIDOU, ATELIER ONE LTD, ATELIER TEN LTD
- **WILMOTTE & ASSOCIES**, EGIS BÂTIMENTS INTERNATIONAL, NEVEUX ROUYER PAYSAGISTES DPLG

List of the three (3) replacement Applicants (as ranked by the Jury in order of preference):

1. **ADJAYE ASSOCIATES**, MAKRIDIS ASSOCIATES, AGIS PAPADOPOULOS, STAVROU P. TZIOTZIOS G. GP
2. **XAVEER DE GEYTER ARCHITECTS**, INSIDE OUTSIDE BV, NEIHEISER ARGYROS, DAIDALOS PEUTZ BOUWFYSISCH INGENIEURSBUREAU BVBA, UTIL SCRL
3. **STEFAN RUTZINGER (SOMA ARCHITECTURE)**, JAN KNIPPERS INGENIEURE, GREEN4CITIES GMBH

2. JURY SESSION

2.1 Evaluation Process

The Jury session took place on July 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 2021, in Ioannis Vellidis Congress Center of TIF-HELEXPO, in Thessaloniki.

Ms Regina Gonthier, Architect (Switzerland) and ICC Co-Director participated as UIA Observer in order to assist the Jury in procedural matters ensuring the implementation of the rules during the evaluation session.

Ms. Farshid Moussavi participated at the Jury session through the means of video conference because of travel complications due to the restrictions regarding Covid19.

Mr. Dimitrios Kerkentzes was unable to attend the Jury Meeting and, therefore, at the beginning of the session the Jury decided by lottery that the Alternate Juror Mr. Simon Hartmann will replace him as voting juror.

Prior to the beginning of the Jury Meeting, the PIN numbers of the entries were covered with numbers 1-15 according to their arrival order, by the Technical Committee.

In the afternoon of 20.07.21, the Jury visited extensively the competition site and other several points in Thessaloniki from which the site is particularly visible and its connection to the city is comprehensible.

According to the report of the Technical Committee:

- All entries were posted in time and arrived at destination within the time limits set by the regulations.
- All the models as well as all the identification envelopes were submitted.
- Except two entries, all others had one or more derogations in a minor or more important degree. The following derogations were discussed: non respect of red building lines, assigned land uses per sector, maximum permitted height of buildings, maximum allowable building floor area per sector or in total.

The Jury took note of the report of the Technical Committee and its comments on each Entry. The Jury decided that all 15 Entries should be admitted for evaluation regardless of their deviations from the Competition Brief and reserved the right after having studied the entries to exclude entries with important derogations from the allocation of prizes.

All 15 submitted entries were admitted by the Jury to the evaluation process.

The Jury examined all Entries according to the evaluation criteria provided in the Competition Brief.

The Jury worked as a group. The evaluation of all Entries was done in the presence and with the contribution of all Jurors. The evaluation process was conducted with successive evaluation rounds dismissing each time the less good proposals in order to identify the short-listed entries. The model of each Entry was inserted in the big model, while the Jurors were discussing each Entry. Each Entry was discussed in detail by all Jurors. Specialists were invited to express their expert opinion in the field of their discipline.

The session started with an orientation round during which a member of the Technical Committee informed about the results of the technical examination in front of each Design entry.

In the following part of the Jury Report, next to the entry number is referred both the PIN number and the name of the Lead Applicant of each Competitor, which were only revealed by opening the identification envelopes, after the end of the evaluation process and the final ranking signed by the Jury. The evaluation rounds were conducted with full respect of the anonymity without possible identification of the authors of the projects.

2.2 First round

In order to proceed to the examination of the entries a combination of 5 groups with two Jurors each was determined by lottery and each of the groups was assigned 3 Design entries for study. The reports of the experts were also taken under consideration. Followed a presentation of the assigned entries by the 2 reporters to the whole Jury and a discussion in which participated all Jury members.

The Jury reviewed once more the design entries and proceeded to the first elimination round.

In the first round 6 entries were dismissed mainly for the following reasons, although the proposals have partial qualities:

- lack of clarity and/or adequacy of the overall concept and architectural language
- lack of strong identity

Following 6 Design Entries were dismissed at the first evaluation round:

- Design Entry N° 6 (PG3530 PROEM)
- Design Entry N° 7 (KV1202 ALA)
- Design Entry N° 10 (LM0902 Wilmotte)
- Design Entry N° 12 (DT4956 Sou Fujimoto)
- Design Entry N° 14 (CA9393 Hopkins)
- Design Entry N° 15 (AD0315 Wilkison Eyre)

At the end of the first round a **verification round** was conducted. It confirmed the results of the first elimination round.

2.3 Second round

A new combination of 5 groups with two Jurors each was decided by lottery and assigned 2 or 1 entries for more thorough study according to the evaluation criteria. Followed a presentation of the 9 assigned Entries by the reporters and comments of all experts to the whole Jury and a discussion in which all Jury members participated. Then the Jury reviewed once more the 9 Entries and proceeded to the second elimination round.

Following 5 Design Entries were dismissed at the second evaluation round, for different reasons explained in the individual critiques:

- Design Entry N° 1 (IM1300 Valode & Pistre)
- Design Entry N° 2 (WH1994 Heatherwick)
- Design Entry N° 4 (CL0664 Bruther)
- Design Entry N° 9 (AB6000 Kengo Kuma)
- Design Entry N° 13 (AR6356 OMA)

2.4 Third round

The 4 shortlisted Entries, N° 3 (LT2121 Lina Ghotmeh), N° 5 (AV3252 Amanda Leveté), N° 8 (WN2021 UNStudio), N° 11 (TH6793 Sauerbruch Hutton) were thoroughly discussed and compared to each other. A particular attention was given to the functionality of the proposals. Experts were called to give information on aspects concerning their domain. At the end of the second day, Jurors were asked to write reports on assigned entries.

At the beginning of the third day Jurors drafted the individual critiques of the entries which were discussed with the participation of all Jurors. A verification round was conducted and confirmed the previous decisions.

Design Entry N° 5 (AV3252 Amanda Leveté) was dismissed in the third round for reasons explained in the individual critique.

A verification round through all entries was conducted and confirmed the previous decisions.

2.5 Fourth round – Final Prize Ranking

The Jury discussed thoroughly the qualities of each of the three shortlisted proposals, N° 3 (LT2121 Lina Ghotmeh), N° 8 (WN2021 UNStudio), N° 11 (TH6793 Sauerbruch Hutton).

Followed a thorough discussion about all derogations listed by the technical committee. A further analysis showed that some aspects qualified as derogations were either minor or not problematic or even wrongly identified as derogations. The jury decided that no project should be excluded from the allocation of a prize

The Jury compared the three shortlisted proposals. Each Jury member expressed differentiated opinions about the specifics merits and weak aspects of the proposals. The Jury arrived unanimously to select the first prize winner and by clear majority vote the second and third prize winner. Following is the ranking:

- 1st prize Design Entry N° 11 (TH6793 Sauerbruch Hutton)
- 2nd prize Design Entry N° 3 (LT2121 Lina Ghotmeh)
- 3rd prize Design Entry N° 8 (WN2021 UNStudio)

The ranking list was approved and signed by the Jury.

At this point the Jury discussed and formulated general remarks and recommendations, which are included in chapter 3 of the Jury report.

After lecture of the above and approval of the drafts of the individual project critics the Jury President opened the identification envelopes and revealed the authors of all entries starting from the projects eliminated in the first round.

2.6 Prizes

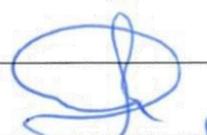
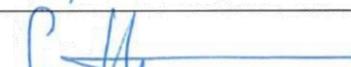
The total prize money available was EUR 100.000.

Three prizes were, as announced in the Competition Brief, attributed by the Jury. The following prizemoney will be awarded to the Competition prize winners:

- 1st prize 50.000 Euro to Design Entry N° 11 (TH6793 Sauerbruch Hutton)

- 2nd prize 30.000 Euro to Design Entry N° 3 (LT2121 Lina Ghotmeh)
- 3rd prize 20.000 Euro to Design Entry No 8 (WN2021 UNStudio)

JURY MEMBERS:

NAME, SURNAME	POSITION	SIGNATURE
JOAN BUSQUETS	CHAIRMAN, JURY MEMBER	
FARSHID MOUSSAVI	JURY MEMBER	
RENA SAKELLARIDOU	JURY MEMBER	
SIMON EWINGS	JURY MEMBER	
SAMULI MIETTINEN	JURY MEMBER	
ARETI MARKOPOULOU	JURY MEMBER	
IRENE DJAO-RAKITINE	JURY MEMBER	
DIMITRIOS KERKENTZES	ABSENT JURY MEMBER*	
KYRIAKOS POZRIKIDIS	JURY MEMBER	
SIMON HARTMANN	JURY MEMBER *	
FANI VAVILI	ALTERNATE JURY MEMBER	
DANIEL FÜGENSCHUH	ALTERNATE JURY MEMBER	
REGINA GONTHIER	UIA OBSERVER, ICC CO-DIRECTOR	

*Mr. Kerkentzes was unable to attend the Jury Meeting and, therefore, was replaced by the Alternate Juror, Mr. Simon Hartmann.

Secretary of Competition :



 (Signature)

Maria Patlaka

3. REPORTS ON THE 15 DESIGN ENTRIES

General remarks and recommendations

First of all the Jury would like to thank the Competition Organizer for having organized an international architectural design Competition for this prestigious task in the center of Thessaloniki and recognizes the generous decision to offer to the city part of the plot as a public park.

Further the Jury would like to thank the Competitors for their effort and hard work and congratulates for the high level of design proposals.

Despite the constraints of the rigid Masterplan and the complexity of the program the Jury is impressed by the diversity of concepts and design philosophies of the proposals. The Jury was in the lucky position to compare totally different concepts and approaches.

The Competition showed that the new fair in this central place of the city will be an enrichment for Thessaloniki and will contribute to the urban quality and attractiveness of the city. .

The Jury unanimously recommends to the Competition Organizer to further develop the first prize winner project.



1st PRIZE, Design Entry N° 11 (TH6793 Sauerbruch Hutton)

SAUERBRUCH HUTTON (GE), GUSTAFSON PORTER + BOWMAN (UK), ELENA STAVROPOULOU (GR)



The proposal proposes a strong concept with a high iconic potential based on the notion of free flowing ‘islands’ that offer interconnection and permeability among the buildings and the park. It breaks the programmatic mass into five entities characterized by roofs of a fluid geometry, which, as a kind of ‘umbrella’, allow the mass to become flexible and functional. The distinct geometry of the roofs coupled by the transparency of the masses give the complex a strong and yet rather ethereal identity.

The breaking of the scale proposed by the ‘islands’ allows for smooth integration with the urban fabric on all four sides of the site. The rounded geometry of the roofs creates inviting aspects, while the different volumes present ‘variations in a theme’ through their geometric deformations. It brings thus together an overall understanding of a unified development for the whole site that accentuates the identity potential, while, at the same time, it offers variety and differentiation on the level of the pedestrian user.

The functional aspect has been resolved successfully by giving the large exhibition halls the scale, geometry and size required, while at the same time the transparent boundary is ‘distorted’ by different programmatic functions, such as foyer lobbies or cafes, that can also operate independently and can be used by the public when there are no exhibitions taking place. This adds morphological variation and interest and gives the possibility for multiple uses in time and kind. It also gives the opportunity for construction in phases as well as for programmatic variation, as it allows different functions to take place at the same time.

Terraces under the roof and a system of closed bridges interconnecting the ‘islands’ allow for public use even when the exhibition spaces are closed, adding to the user friendliness and inclusiveness of the proposal. The complex is characterized by quality design of buildings, open spaces, and the park.

The proposed ‘islands’ allow the park to have a seamless flow among the building masses, creating a sophisticated and consistent parkland environment.

The parkland includes a grading of different atmospheres, from gardens to the

southwest entrance gate to large, planted alleyways in between the halls.

It also includes important pedestrian connections through the park, in particular a smooth diagonal walkway linking the new metro station Egnatia to the Archaeological and Byzantine museums to the southeast, and the mountain (Seih Sou Forest) – sea (Thermaic Gulf) axis to emphasize the perspective, reveal the horizons and connect the University campus to the Confex Park.

Landscape typologies are varied (woodland, meadows, orchards, etc.) and well developed.

The water collection strategy is good but will need further development.

Water channels are also used as a boundary device around the western and southern edges.

The landscape strategy includes topographical principles based on terraces to create distinct garden spaces using local habitats. Vegetation palette is not available and should be carefully developed..

As with the other well planted schemes, the park offers strong advantages such as mitigating urban heat, run-off, and air pollution.

Since the servicing of the halls is done at street level, the design of the park will need to be very well coordinated with the servicing (and fire truck accessibility) strategy of the halls to keep a strong presence and quality especially in term of tree planting.

Sustainability aspects have been thoroughly and successfully addressed. The roofs are designed as multi-purpose high tech ‘sustainability clouds’ for solar panels, rainwater collection and air-conditioning. Their materiality needs to be further resolved.

The proposal offers a clever structural design of a demountable and reusable structural frame in line with up-to date methods of modular construction, that could have a positive effect on future maintenance costs. The proposal has been found to be on the upper limit of cost. However, if the extra 17500sqm allocated to the mall are excluded, it stands in the middle range.

Overall, the proposal offers a contemporary and high-quality design that addresses in a holistic way all major aspects of the brief. The complex is seamlessly integrated with the urban, the natural and the social environment. It successfully addresses the criterion of adequacy and clarity of the overall concept and offers a concept with a strong potential to become a new landmark for the city.

Exhibition halls appear to be flexible and functional and are all connected through a skyway bridge. Logistics is straightforward and efficient organized on the ground floor level. Resolving the overlapping of the flows of visitors with that of the logistics remains a challenge.

Statement for the winning scheme

The Jury applauds the conceptual approach which achieves a high level of porosity for both pedestrian flows and views across the site enhancing a natural urban integration of the expo site into the fabric of the city.

The ‘pavilions’ or ‘islands’ break down the perceived scale of the development in an attractive manner without compromising functionality.

The proposal delivers a well-considered and integrated sustainability system including

a plan for staged construction

The proposed canopies not only provide a clear identity to the overall scheme but also offer a high level of functionality.

Finally, the overall playful and light aesthetic successfully responds to the challenge of merging the trade fair/expo program with an enjoyable urban park experience allowing for community-based programs throughout the year.

Jury comments for further development

1. The interface and management of shared areas between publicly accessible space and logistical space requires close attention and the establishment of good strategies to avoid conflicts and realize the added benefits inherent in the design.
2. The proposed additional retail area below ground should be removed to bring the development into the areas given by the brief
3. The design of the hotel requires close attention as it occupies a prominent location in the city.
4. The canopies and the overall building envelopes require detailed development at an early stage to ensure that functionality, materiality, form, and cost are thoroughly mapped out and built into the scheme with the qualities shown.
5. The Jury is of the opinion that the extent and height of the canopies as shown are important to the success of the design and significant reductions would be detrimental.

2nd PRIZE, Design Entry N° 3 (LT2121 Lina Ghotmeh)

LINA GHOTMEH — ARCHITECTURE (FR), VOGT PAYSAGE + URBANISME (FR), LAN (FR), LOT I.K.E. (GR), TRACTEBEL ENGINEERING S.A. (FR), SYSTEMATICA S.R.L. (IT)



Very clear concept that responds intelligently to the Masterplan, with minimal architecture that steps back to allow activities to express their qualities. The proposal enhances the role of the Telecom tower as real landmark of the region.

Delicate sculpturality. Quiet language expressing serenity and demanding a sensitive materialization.

The functions are well organized within the volume, avoiding conflicts with other uses in the context. The urban approach of the project tries to establish an interesting continuity with the University campus. Nevertheless, the vast massing of the main building seems to block the potential urban continuity with the surrounding district and its visual impact is also massive.

The reduction of energy consumption and the bioclimatic approach are positive elements of the proposal. The use and reuse of recyclable materials for the construction is interesting. Water management, collection of rainwater storage for irrigation and flood risk are well embedded in the scheme, but the vast footprint of the building creates a large sterile biological environment.

Quite good cost-effective design. Fair cost and energy efficient proposal in terms of minimizing the envelope surface. Rather good proposal in terms of façade cost.

The innovative approach of the proposal can be seen on its capacity to optimize and integrate existing conditions by realizing a unitary complex with the future park in the monumental axis.

It is a very well thought proposal and developing almost all aspects of the brief. Special attention deserves the roof garden they proposed on the southern corner of Exhibition Hall creating a quite memorable belvedere over the park, the tower, and the sea.

The exhibition halls are efficiently placed around AAMTH and connected on the ground

floor level via covered plazas and galleries. They have rectangular shapes and are very functional.

The logistics point of access for large trucks at the south side of the site is questionable because of the existing bridge.

Possible Recommendations.

- Buildability should be reduced to the brief proposed by the competition and adjusted to the planning rules to reduce derogations.
- Project should follow a fine tuning with existing topography.
- Roof garden should be open to civic uses. The city may be introduced, by enhancing the already proposed vertical communication.
- Material optimisation should be carried to reduce CO2 footprint.
- The park is clearly distinct from the exhibition hall center.
- The proposal shows a well-structured but rather rigid and conservative city park mainly emphasizing the mountain-sea axis and connections to the ConfEx center. It includes clearly defined and straight tree lined alleyways, smaller meandering connections and simple but efficient open lawns including some sport fields.
- Vegetation palette is not available.
- As with the other well planted schemes, the parkland offers strong advantages such as mitigating urban heat, run-off and air pollution.
- The landscape proposal has good and strong principles but is superficially described and is not innovative.
- Green roofs should and could be easily provided on the main building

3rd PRIZE, Design Entry N° 8 (WN2021 UNStudio)

UNSTUDIO (NL), SCHEMA4 - STUDIES OFFICE G.P. (GR), OKRA LANDSCHAPSARCHITECTEN B.V. (NL)



The overall concept is presenting the competition area as forested park with buildings as pavilions surrounded and covered by the vegetation. The concept, carefully elaborated, is a strong statement and an attractive oasis in the heart of the city, while it merges smoothly with the surroundings.

The uniqueness of the identity of the area relies on the park and its vegetation, softening the size of the new buildings, while buildings and gardens integrated within them have different identities dividing the vast area as a collage.

The proposal uses sloping lots of features. All the halls are reached straight from the park from various levels, however parts of them go deep in the ground. Despite the exhibition halls have clear rectangular shapes that can be very functional, placing the halls partly underground is uncommon for exhibition centers and poses a challenge regarding their efficiency and safety. Moreover, the amount of excavation works seems very important although it needs to be quantified. The brief asked for a cut and fill balance. This has not been demonstrated.

Business centre with retail spaces, multipurpose hall and hotels public spaces form a functionally well-designed complex.

The proposal is generous regarding visitors and citizens making some compromises with users and exhibitors.

Underground loading, with a clear “Back of House” strategy, is challenging but possible. Public and service traffic are crossing behind the exhibition halls. They can’t be separated and need careful studying and design.

Extensive use of greenery including the roofs of the buildings gives huge sustainable possibilities. Creation of an elongated body of water inside the exhibition centre from north to south. Absence of comprehensive proposal to meet the energy needs. Increased irrigation needs may be a problem of water management. The proposal for an aquatic element may be a positive factor in tackling flood risk but the resources to

secure the water management is a problem.

Too much wood is still proposed. E.g., timber structure of the congress centre is not structurally possible. Timber columns can become very large and will need special connections. Low fire resistance because of forest green and timber beams but fire safety is considered.

A rather not economic proposal in terms of buildable area. Poor cost-effective design in terms of maximizing the usable area. Poor cost and energy efficient proposal in terms of minimizing the envelope surface. Very good proposal in terms of façade cost.

In its targets and solutions the proposal is coherent but, in the details, we can find some contradictions and controversies. It is not only up to the architectural design for the whole to be greater than the sum of its parts but also up to the management and use of the Expo and the area.

The proposal includes a mosaic of woodlands typologies and a 1226-meter-long walkway.

The idea to generate local ownership through the involvement of citizens into tree planting is strong on a social, cultural, and educational point of view.

The proposed vegetation palette seems appropriate. The powerful idea to create an urban forest habitat in this central urban location has strong advantages of mitigating urban heat, run-off, and air pollution.

Nevertheless, serious concerns are raised:

- The planting strategy is described as a forestry strategy with seedlings being planted and the evolution of the forest structure being “broadcasted live”. This means that most of the parkland areas will be fenced off for years until tree planting is strong enough to make these areas accessible to the public. This could be resolved by creating glades within these zones. Also, we could imagine that some areas would be planted with already semi-mature trees to give access and structure to the park on day one. With this landscape and planting strategy in mind, the renders shown are misleading as there are representing mature trees, probably 30 years at least after planting although the buildings represented are brand new.
- In this concept, the notion of “natural maturation process” is put forward. Which means that time, growth, and phasing should be inherent to the design of the park. This is not what the graphic documents represent.
- The accessibility of the roofscape seems unrealistic in term of public management (security risks, feasibility issues) from the end-user’s perspective.
- Branding issue. Why is this an innovative forest?

Design Entry N° 5 (AV3252 Amanda Levete)

Eliminated in 3rd round

AMANDA LEVETE ARCHITECTS (UK), STUDIO SEILERN ARCHITECTS LIMITED (UK), VLADIMIR DJUROVIC LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE INTERNATIONAL SAL OFFSHORE (LB), FHECOR INGENIEROS CONSULTORES (ES), R. ÚRCULO INGENIEROS CONSULTORES S.A. (ES)



The Jury considers the concept of an urban forest an adequate/ appropriate response to the competition brief as it would place the citizens at the heart of the redevelopment of the site.

The urban forest would create an overall identity for the proposal. However, it would take around thirty years to arrive to what is presented in the competition images. The Jury concluded that the proposal should have made this evident and made appropriate steps to ensure that while the forest is not yet fully developed, the site would provide a user friendly and attractive setting around the venues.

Steps have been taken to connect the city with the sea both visually and physically and to situate the proposal within its larger setting. However, the competition also asked for the buildings to be designed as landmarks and in this sense, the building forms that are created as a result of enforcing the various axes through the site, do not have a clear identity of their own and feel residual.

The exterior image of the proposed Congress Center is simple and elegant. Its inhabited structure at roof-level along with the water body introduced through the site would celebrate well the large-scale nature of an expo as a place of large gatherings. However, the various interiors of the Congress Center presented look incoherent with one another and there is no indication of what their materiality would be or what eventual quality is imagined for them. The design of the Business Centre blocks is also discordant with the design of the Exhibition Center. The Jury concluded that there are very many interesting design proposals, but they remain incoherent with one another.

The proposal has attended to solving the basic functional needs of the Brief.

The Jury recognized that user friendliness and inclusiveness had been taken on board as an integral factor of the proposal.

The proposal satisfactorily presents the environmental parameters such as use of solar roofs, reuse of material, water collection from roofs and their reuse, as well as biodiversity. The introduction of a large water body through the site would be a

positive feature (for recreation, biodiversity, passive climate control and sustainable water management), but the Jury expressed serious doubts regarding the feasibility of supplying the 300-meter-long water feature with recycled water. This would imply very large water reservoirs which might not be realistic economically. If left empty most of the year, one might wonder if the remaining dry landscape structure might be attractive enough.

Whilst the urban forest is an interesting idea, it is not put forward in any particularly innovative way. The documents presented do not propose any specific species of vegetation that would take into account their order of growth, their seasonal character, the kind of exterior 'rooms' they would create, and so on.

The parkland proposal is well developed with a variety of landscape typologies and habitats, mainly woodland, including a strong connection to the surrounding urban structure with straight and direct alleyways combined with meandering walkways for strolling.

On a spatial level, it is felt that it divides the site and limits transversal connections.

Exhibition halls have simple and functional shapes. Exhibition halls of sector I1 and II are not connected with the ones in sector I2 and IV. There is not a clear strategy for logistics and part of the loading seems to take place underground although exhibition halls are on the ground floor level.

The Jury concluded that the proposal does not adequately integrate the buildings and the woodland, and the architecture is not coherent.

Design Entry N° 1 (IM1300 Valode & Pistre)

Eliminated in 2nd round

VALODE & PISTRE ARCHITECTES (FR), MICHEL DESVIGNE PAYSAGISTE (FR), VP & GREEN ENGINEERING (FR), ESPACE TEMPS (FR)



The proposal is based on one strong statement. All volumes seem to be covered by a large, corrugated roof arranged around the AAMTH (palais de sports) radiating out to the perimeter of the plot. As the AAMTH is not part of the site, it has been seen criticized by the Jury to formally set the focus on it and to place a non-accessible building in the heart of the competition site.

The large scale, monotone roof also has a negative impact on the roofscape of the city.

The main gesture has been carried through consequently, unfortunately without providing a variety of design and spaces.

Design Entry N° 2 (WH1994 Heatherwick)

Eliminated in 2nd round

HEATHERWICK STUDIO LIMITED (UK), M. DEDA AND ASSOCIATES CO (GR), BURO HAPPOLD LIMITED (UK)



The Jury has noted this proposal being based on the former masterplan.

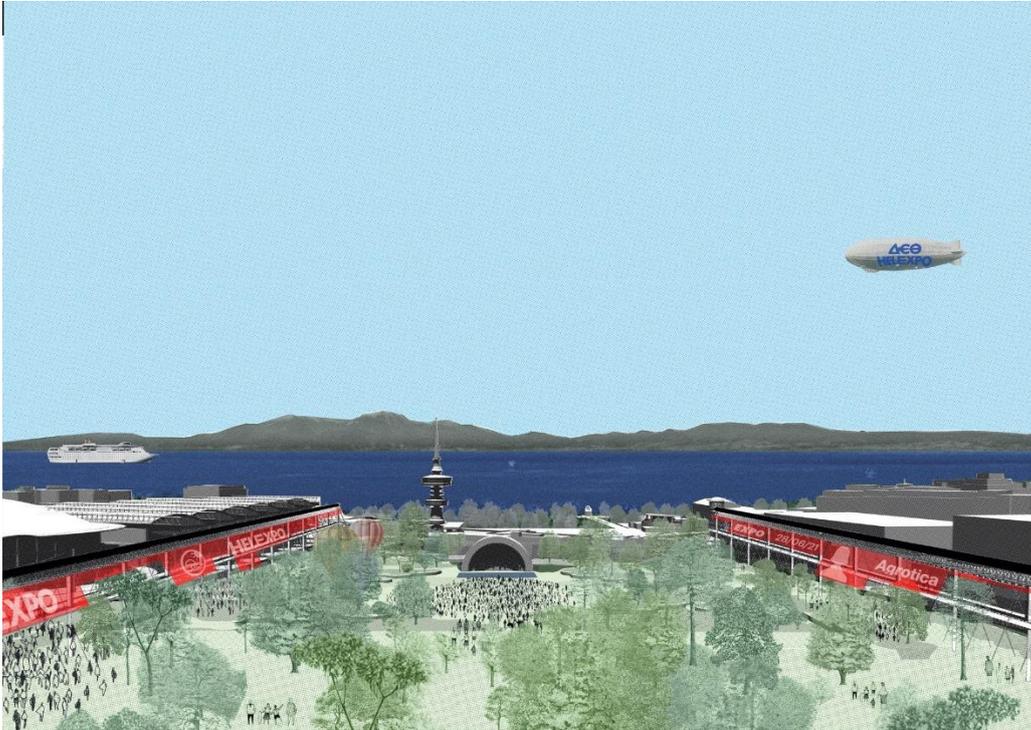
The necessity of the overwhelming variety of formal interventions has been questioned.

A relation of the various shapes and forms to the competition brief cannot be argued. The scheme is regarded to be cost intensive in the construction and difficult to maintain.

Design Entry N° 4 (CL0664 Bruther)

Eliminated in 2nd round

BRUTHER ARCHITECTES (FR), ROBBRECHT EN DAEM ARCHITECTEN BV (BE), LIST (FR), GLOBAL - ARCHITECTURA PAISAGISTA LDA (PT), SCHNETZER PUSKAS INTERNATIONAL AG (CH), DUSS BV (DEVELOPING URBAN SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY) (BE)



This entry proposed a drastically different disposition from the masterplan with a large, central park which divides the program into 2 distinct and separated developments.

The Jury found the vision interesting enough to deserve closer examination in round 2.

However, not only does the proposal deviate completely from the Masterplan building lines, functional locations, and height restrictions, but the Competitor also did not deliver the required area documentation.

The Jury felt that a departure from the brief of this significance would require an extremely well documented reasoning for the advantages of the proposal, but this is not present beyond the claim that the park would serve the city and fair in a better way. Although the proposal offered an exciting alternative vision, this was not particularly well developed and lacked the attention to detail and sensibilities to the local surroundings required by the brief.

The Park itself is not particularly well developed and results in the MMCA buildings having a very high profile which their functional and architectural significance does not merit.

In particular, the resulting functional separation is not considered viable.

Design Entry N° 9 (AB6000 Kengo Kuma)

Eliminated in 2nd round

KENGO KUMA AND ASSOCIATES (JP), AKT II (UK), HILSON MORAN PARTNERSHIP (UK), GEORGES BATZIOS ARCHITECTS (G.BATZIOS MIKE) (GR), DOXIADIS+ (GR)



This proposal offered a very interesting reimagining of the pattern of usage for the site, which includes the several halls as covered open space when not in use by the trade fair. This has been considered as a strong concept that could contribute to a new way of programmatically activate exhibition spaces when they are not in use.

The Jury was quite intrigued by the idea and the proposal was brought into stage 2 for closer examination.

On review the Jury realized that although the logistics worked adequately, this alternative would be highly problematic in terms of security and cross contamination of uses. The halls depend on intensive access for rigging and derigging exhibitions when not in use and the likelihood of extended periods of down-time is small.

The Jury felt that the competitor had become so enamored with this concept that they had failed to bring the rest of the proposal to a satisfactory level of development, particularly concerning the park and public spaces, which were an exercise in graphics rather than a well-considered design.

The proposal's architectural identity is also not as well developed as it could be.

Design Entry N° 13 (AR6356 OMA)

Eliminated in 2nd round

OMA STEDEBOUW BV (NL)



This entry proposes an overlaying of the 1918 urban plan with the current masterplan.

Although this was considered interesting enough for further examination, the Jury ultimately felt that this had become something of a straight-jacket for the competitor and that it was not critically interrogated enough.

In several instances the concept does not create better solutions but is rather stiffly applied, leading to unnecessarily awkward or functionally inefficient results. Plans and space distribution lacked detailed development in order to solve certain problematic areas derived from the formal superposition of the 1918s urban plan.

The resulting form of sector 1a is particularly ill suited to its function and the various axes chosen from the masterplan were not always helpful in creating a good overall layout.

The public park is a direct overlay of the old plan, and the Jury would expect the competitor to show a greater degree of flexibility and creativity here.

The Jury praised the design of the roof areas resulting from a combination of the two systems, but this thinking was not carried into the rest of the proposal to any great extent.

Finally, the façades lack development and present an overly large and uninviting aspect to the city.

Design Entry N° 6 (PG3530 PROEM)

Eliminated in 1st round

PROEM ARCHITECTS-PROEM GENERAL TRADING (KW), YANNIS KITANNIS (OKTANA) (GR), OMETE S.A. (GR)



The overall concept of the proposal, based on the reintegration to the city grid of a central urban block by means of programmatic, formal, and infrastructural rearrangement and innovation, does not succeed to achieve its goal and the “archaic” layout fails to become the “architectural icon” that the design team describes.

The accentuated diagonal axis, the “Aerial Path”, although it seems an interesting element, it creates interruptions in pedestrian flows on the ground floor and does not connect the congress hall, which stands alone. The main axis connecting the mountain with the sea is not well developed. Overall, there is no clarity of the visitors’ flows and logistics, especially in big events.

Although the Business center has an interesting concept, the hotel is too dominant on the Syntrivani square.

The specific layout with split volumes creates too many courtyards and thus discontinued open spaces.

Design Entry N° 7 (KV1202 ALA)

Eliminated in 1st round

ALA ARCHITECTS LTD. (FI), MARELD LANDSKAPSARKITEKTER AB (SE)



The concept to create a contrast between the thriving urban areas with historical layers and a rooftop landscape with green rolling hills, although it is interesting, it creates issues like problematic roof accessibility and unusable exhibition spaces underneath.

The roof morphology creates issues of safety and maintenance, that would increase the running cost.

The transition between the two scales mentioned on the concept is not enough developed, while the business center is too much extended.

The volume parallel to the congress center (public restaurant) and the connection with it to the southwest is questionable.

Design Entry N° 10 (LM0902 Wilmotte)

Eliminated in 1st round

WILMOTTE & ASSOCIES (FR), EGIS BÂTIMENTS INTERNATIONAL (FR), NEVEUX ROUYER PAYSAGISTES DPLG (FR)



The entry proposal relies on preserving the local heritage on one hand and enhance the use of local and natural materials on the other. The environmental sensibility has been evaluated positively by the Jury while it raised a series of questions and doubts on the final result of the implementation of the concepts.

The preservation of the existing buildings on Aggelaki str., contrary to the Competition requirements have not been elaborated to an extend that could justify such a planning decision. The Jury expressed the opinion that such preservation could eventually create a barrier to the public park and minimize accessibility to it.

Two buildings are placed outside the Masterplan area in Sector V and that has been considered a significant limitation for the implementation of the proposal in the next stage.

Although the participants highlight a strategy of local materials use, certain doubts have been raised in relation to the origin of the extensive use of timber structures.

Architecturally the proposal did not deliver a strong identity that is desired for this landmark development.

Design Entry N° 12 (DT4956 Sou Fujimoto)

Eliminated in 1st round

**SOU FUJIMOTO ARCHITECTS INC. (JP), GUY NORDENSON AND ASSOCIATES
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS LLP (US), CRACKNELL LANDSCAPE DESIGN LLC (AE)**



The proposal respects the complex logistical needs of the client and is carried by a very clear architectural idea: Each functional entity is designed in a functional way and the site as a whole is bound together by a light filtering canopy.

The Jury criticizes the result of this choice as spatially too poor with a very limited potential of identity for the future development. The dominance of the canopy leaves very little room for the architecture as well as for the green spaces. The resulting sustainability aspect seems very poor.

Design Entry N° 14 (CA9393 Hopkins)

Eliminated in 1st round

HOPKINS ARCHITECTS LIMITED (UK)



The proposal organizes the different functions according to the masterplan and tries to unify the site by the mean of a very dominant grid structure of nine-by-nine meters with the ambition to create a “living grid, creating a mosaic of possibilities”.

The Jury criticizes the design strategy as a simple and mechanical application of an abstract principle, which produces neither clarity nor spatial variety, both needed on the vast site.

The implementation of the grid as a main concept is rather a system than a landmark.

Design Entry N° 15 (AD0315 Wilkison Eyre)

Eliminated in 1st round

WILKINSON EYRE ARCHITECTS LTD (UK), GRANT ASSOCIATES (UK), BIODIVERSITY BY DESIGN LTD (UK), ELENI PAVLIDOU (GR), ATELIER ONE LTD (UK), ATELIER TEN LTD (UK)



The proposal separates the program in an upper part for the fair and a lower part with a complex landscape of distinctive Mediterranean garden types meant to trigger the senses of the users.

The Jury discusses the overall concept as too disruptive for the urban fabric due to its deliberate search for spatial and formal complexity. The Jury also expresses serious doubts concerning the promise to create a garden with big trees on the roof of the congress hall.