

Archiprix Netherlands 2021 jury report

Conditions of entry

Each year the Dutch institutions offering Master's programmes in architecture, urban design and landscape architecture select their best graduation projects and submit them to Archiprix. As an experiment, this year's edition includes projects from institutions offering a Master's in interior architecture, as was also the case in 2019 and 2020. The institutions make their selection in accordance with the conditions of entry and the selection criteria set down by Archiprix. The conditions of entry set a maximum to the number of submitted projects, proportionate to the size of each institution. So for Delft the maximum is 9, for Amsterdam 4, Eindhoven 4, Rotterdam 3, Tilburg 2, Wageningen 2, Arnhem 1, Groningen 1 and Maastricht 1. The six institutions offering Master's programmes in interior architecture could submit three projects between them. This gives a maximum of thirty, and this was the number submitted by the institutions to Archiprix 2021. Besides these formal regulations, the conditions of entry contain the criteria underlying both the selection of projects by the institutions and the adjudication. The quintessential requirements are: that the outcome of the entry is an architectural, urban, landscape or (on this occasion) interior design; that this has an explicitly stated issue or issues as its basic premise and that there is a detailed account of how, working from the above issues, the project was arrived at. When judging the projects the following elements are successively taken into account: the analysis of the brief; the project's conceptual strength; the spatial quality of the design together with a sensitive deployment of resources; an account of the project in words and images and the cohesion enjoyed by all of these elements. This cohesion is of major importance as it serves to demonstrate the entrant's mastery of the entire process insofar as this translates the issue raised by the brief into an appropriate three-dimensional solution.

The jury

Each year Archiprix's executive board assembles a new independent jury of experts. In the interests of fairness, no persons directly connected with preparing a submitted project or directly related to a designer of such, may sit on the jury. The jury's task is to assess the projects on their own merits and briefly comment on the substance of each. In addition it has to select the best entries. There are five members of the jury, four experts in the disciplines concerned and a theorist. The line-up of the jury that judged the graduation projects of Archiprix 2021 is as follows: **Florian Boer** (urban design), **Jana Crepon** (landscape architecture), **Joep Esseling** (interior architecture), **Kirsten Hannema** (theory) and **Gert Kwekkeboom** (architecture). Secretary to the jury is Henk van der Veen in association with Max Rink of Archiprix.

Adjudication

The entries were judged on 24 February and 18 March 2021. The COVID-19 restrictions meant that the projects could not be exhibited in Delft as in previous years. This time they were judged on the strength of their online presentation at the Archiprix website and from PDFs of the graduation reports. Before passing judgement the jury received for each project a text composed by the designer giving the essence of his or her entry. The jury studied these explanatory notes and other documents in the period between the two adjudicating sessions. It assessed each project individually in terms of its qualities, proceeding from the criteria established by Archiprix and stated in the conditions of entry.

Statistics

Of the thirty submitted projects fifteen are by students graduating in architecture. One entrant graduated in both architecture and urban design. Six entries have urban design as the main subject, five have landscape architecture and three are by students graduating in interior architecture. Twenty-two projects are located abroad (a new record) and eight in the Netherlands. Urban design and landscape architecture have never been so well represented as in this edition.

General remarks

The jury identified a number of more general trends outlined below. Its members were requested to reflect, from their position in professional practice, on the selection of the best student design projects of the past academic year. So these remarks are mainly for the benefit of the institutions concerned. There are to be read as critical comments on the state of education and the focus of the institutions. The jury also identified mainstream trends among the projects that stand out without necessarily eliciting a value judgement.

Social engagement

The majority of the projects address relevant social briefs. A number take inspirational approaches to bringing together different segments of the population and strengthening the sense of community. Many are worked up with great sensitivity, placing humankind at the centre. Understandably, this approach is most evident among the entries in architecture and interior architecture, yet almost half the urban design projects have a strong social component.

Climate

Almost half the projects address climate change, with sea level rise and the energy transition to the fore. This holds for all five projects in landscape architecture, four of the seven in urban design and certain architecture projects.

Imagination

The presentation of projects in all disciplines is impressive. The visual material, which includes much freehand drawing, is indicative of the graduates' depth of involvement in their work. These are no literal artist's impressions but images that seek to draw the spectator into the perception and ambience of a place.

Innovation

Taking the entries as a whole, the jury discerns an abundance of optimism and exhilarating new avenues. Most projects relate to urgent briefs calling for spatial solutions in the long or short term. This year's Archiprix graduates propose many relevant innovative ideas on the subject. Some projects open up entirely new perspectives, others make a workable contribution to a locally important brief. In cases where projects can substantially benefit the conception or actualization of the brief, the designers have thoroughly familiarized themselves with the underlying factors, the issues involved and the possible ways forward. The knowledge possessed by these designers is just what is needed to breathe new life into the practice of their profession.

Foreign sites and entrants

Three-quarters of this year's projects are located abroad. This means that the agenda of this Dutch edition of Archiprix is largely played out beyond the national borders. There are several extremely interesting aspects to this phenomenon. It is of great value that Dutch knowledge can make a difference to the quality of design proposals abroad, the result being a number of highly inspirational projects. For example, the Dutch strategy of dealing with water issues by designing with water instead of fighting it opens up a new approach to the problem of forest fires in the project A Fire-Scape. We see this strategy return in projects like Re-assembling Semarang City, on living with the rising sea level in Indonesia, and Architectures in Motion, where a long-term collaboration between TU-Delft and Ethiopia has produced an exceptionally inspirational housing project that combines Delft expertise in social housing with specific local knowledge. A second aspect resides in the fact that not only are there many foreign sites but also many foreign graduates. A few of these chose to site their graduation design in their country of origin or residence or where they work, or plan to work. In these cases too, the jury identifies a drive to stimulate innovation and the most inspirational exchange of knowledge and experience.

Design and research

The jury was made aware of a profoundly academic approach, particularly among the university projects. This is often expressed in voluminous reports full of excellent research that is to underpin the design. In academic education, it must be proved in logical steps that the designed solutions actually work. Education at the architecture academies seems more focused on the personal development of the designer. Whenever theoretical underpinning is called for, this leads in some cases to a desire to make the design objective in the extreme. This is a dangerous trend as it can mean a lack of explicit choices on the part of the designer, when making such choices is extremely important. This separates designers from researchers, in that the former ultimately make decisions based on the findings of their research. Many briefs are extremely complex. The designers of some projects acknowledge this complexity but refrain from drawing conclusions. It is important for the quality of a project and for its presentation that the designer clearly summarizes the research, and from that position makes the choices that are defining for the design's concept and elaboration.

Landscape architecture

It is in landscape architecture that the truly cutting-edge projects of this edition can be found. Doggerland and A Fire-Scape each present a wholly new approach and open up an entirely new perspective within the discipline. A Fire-Scape designs with fire, furnishing strategies that enable controlled burns that contribute to the quality of the landscape. In Doggerland, the entrant has designed an underwater landscape where fish and invertebrates come first. Both projects introduce a completely new dimension, opening up an entirely new and energizing perspective for the discipline. Additionally, it is landscape architecture entries that use the problematic issue of placing wind turbines and solar farms to enhance ecological quality, such as the wind turbines at sea in Doggerland and the solar farms on the waters of IJmeer in Solarchipelago.

Interior architecture

Master's programmes in interior architecture have been active as such for only a short time. The role interior architects play in professional practice is that of uniting the user, the executive body and/or the architect. Within the context of Archiprix, the graduation projects should occupy a position that distinguishes them in terms of spatial perception, an eye for detail, tactility and the handling of materials. This is still only partially evident. If the choice of brief gives a few promising steps towards such a position, the projects fall short when it comes to tying together the preconditions necessary to produce a spatial design.

Urban design

Each and every project in this discipline is of a high quality. Remarkably, the majority of the urban design projects have a key landscape component. This is best exemplified by Synchronizing Habitat, conceptually an excellent project. Regrettably, its presentation fails to convey its qualities to full effect. In that respect, urban design could learn from the landscape architecture projects, which present a comparable complexity with greater lucidity. One exception is Test#1: The Island, which uses the seductiveness of the presentation to focus attention on the design. Whereas the landscape architecture in this edition is capable of blazing new trails, urban design stays slightly closer to home, so that those projects are a little less original in comparison. On the other hand, the fact that the urban design projects are more embedded in the engineering tradition is a major point in their favour, as such top-quality engineering is needed more than ever these days.

It is interesting that these urban design projects are scarcely ever limited to designing volumes and spatial proportions and instead lean heavily on engineering. In that sense, you could conclude that the polytechnical tradition of urban design originating with military and civil engineers has at present gained the upper hand over the Beaux-Arts tradition of the city as a unified spatial entity. This state of affairs may also be evoked by the briefs the students set themselves; these mostly relate to the functioning (or dysfunctioning) of systems. To design in this area, these systems first need to be understood and luckily the current batch of designers takes this very seriously indeed.

Architecture

Architecture accounts for 15 of the 30 entries, making it the biggest category. It has also yielded both recipients of a second prize. Poku Oso processes a unique perception of sound, whereas Power, Dreams, and Indifference explores the power of architecture in facilitating social integration. Architecture is also the discipline with the widest diversity, although there are a few general trends to discover. For example, there is the all-pervading sense of needing to operate within an existing context; the genius loci is important. Often the jury sees a balanced approach that appeals to the social context rather than just the spatial context. A positive aspect is that many projects are devised with the community in mind, many calling for subtle, restrained interventions in the city. This also translates into the often vernacular style of the design. The megalomaniac Utopian projects we saw much more often in the past are now few and far between. It is interesting that the human perspective is heavily present, with a finer focus on sensory and perceptual aspects. The technical side has shifted more into the background, which causes the jury to ponder the future of the architect's practice: will architects soon be closer to artists than to engineers or writers? There are relatively few briefs that address housing, a major exception being

Architectures in Motion, a fully formed and layered design to densify Addis Ababa. Another interesting housing project is WeGroCo for a fully circular neighbourhood whose future residents are involved at an early stage, so that building a community is a key consideration from day one.

Prizes and mentions

The jury has awarded two first prizes and two second prizes. The first prizes are awarded to two landscape architecture projects, both of which present a spectacular new strategy to their field of study. Both second prizes go to architecture entries. These combine a great sensitivity to the local context with an original interpretation of existing local architecture in designs that are consistent and at an advanced stage of development.

Shared first prize (in alphabetical order)

Doggerland, the Breeding Ground of the North Sea, designed by **Ziega van den Berk**, AvB Amsterdam (landscape architecture)

The project adds a whole new dimension to the design of wind farms at sea by hitching the brief to nature development on the seabed. Looked at through the eyes of the marine life, the project examines the ingredients of the wind farm and explores ways of using these to further the quality of the underwater habitat.

A Fire-Scape, designed by **Hanna Prinssen**, AvB Amsterdam (landscape architecture)

This pioneering landscape architectural design is about dealing with fire in the landscape. Adopting the analogy of the Dutch struggle against the water, now changed into a strategy of designing with the water, this project is the first to design with fire rather than fighting it.

Shared second prize (in alphabetical order)

Poku Oso | Conservatorium Suriname, designed by **Lindsey van de Wetering**, AvB Amsterdam (architecture)

The music buildings together comprising the conservatory function as musical instruments themselves. This architecture of sound ushers in a wholly new and original form of expression. Social culture, biodiversity and architecture blend together into a new unified whole.

Power, Dreams, and Indifference. Architectural Means in a Young Kosovo, designed by **Anneb  Brouwer**, TU-Delft (architecture)

The project addresses an urgent theme and is fleshed out very seriously and with great conviction. It seeks to bring young people together, giving them a place of their own as well as providing a framework that is to encourage them to get involved in the community.

THE PROJECTS

A Core for Diversity - Giorgia Castelli - TU-Eindhoven (architecture)

This project seeks to create a common ground where the different population groups of the multicultural municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode in Brussels can come together. The designed public space is to advance the local integration of migrants, thereby addressing an urgent problem. The project is informed by an exhaustive and

ambitious study into the potential of public space to bring together different segments of the population. What is interesting is that this large-scale issue is tackled in a small courtyard of a city block. Its designer has chosen well to develop the rear of the block, as the informal ambience contributes to the intended purpose of bringing together individuals from different backgrounds. A balanced mix of functions housed in the courtyard caters to a wide and varied spectrum of residents. Architecturally, the project remains somewhat sketchy. The designer is justified in not going for a monumental image, but the response to the site in question is less felicitous. The spatial quality as a potential for encounter is also below par. That being said, the overall spatial development, including the nature and organization of the programme, is right on target.

A Fire-Scape - Hanna Prinssen - AvB Amsterdam (landscape architecture)

This pioneering landscape architectural design is about dealing with fire in the landscape. It presents a regional strategy for addressing the increasing danger of forest fires in the Sierra Nevada mountain range in California. Climate change is expected to increase the risk of fire worldwide, so the subject is bang up to date and has global relevance. The designer's exhaustive study brings to light all the relevant aspects, which makes it extremely valuable for all parties faced with the issues of living with fire. The design is inspirational in the extreme. Adopting the analogy of the Dutch struggle against the water, since changed into a strategy of designing with the water, this project is the first to design with fire instead of fighting it. The design assembles a number of typically Dutch resources, such as dykes, and makes space for fire in a way that enables nature to diversify again. This complete and well-grounded project addresses all other relevant aspects besides the spatial ones, including the economic side of the equation. The presentation is very fine and accessible. This magnificent project is a convincing example of how to manage forests, how to create a beautiful, rich and safe landscape and how to improve our natural surroundings.

Architecture of Synergy - Mohammed M. Khalilnejad - AAS Tilburg (architecture)

This project addresses the transformation of the iconic Robin Hood Gardens social housing project in London, designed in the 1960s by Alison and Peter Smithson. By now, half the complex has been demolished to make way for new build in greater densities and for the more well-to-do homeowners. This project presents another option for the remaining portion of the complex. The intention is to realize for the current residents a diverse, friendly and affordable live-work environment based on the qualities already on site. The sympathetic course of action is rooted in an extensive study into the original ideals of the Smithsons' project and the causes of its demise. A layered approach in phases is to keep the existing community intact. The remaining part of the original complex has been incorporated in the new plan. A sizeable volume has been placed against the east side of the existing one, with a large public interior designed between the two volumes. The project adds a green structure and makes the connection with the urban infrastructure. The intentions and the pursued strategy are fine. Regrettably, the architectural language bears no discernible relationship to the context and lacks the cohesion necessary for the solution to be truly convincing.

Architectures in Motion: Reconfiguring Addis Ababa's Narratives - Antonio Paoletti - TU-Delft (architecture)

This lavish project explores a great many aspects of a current and relevant brief and offers a serious and exceptionally strong alternative to the current practice of urban renewal in Addis Ababa. Its designer sought a method to incorporate the physical heritage, the history and the narratives of the residents in the design. While densifying the city, he wishes to retain its cultural identity by building an inclusive city and succeeds admirably.

Ordinarily, Africa's fast-growing cities are densified by demolishing existing neighbourhoods and replacing them with cheap new build, with no place for the original residents. Architectures in Motion offers a serious alternative to this strategy of tabula rasa with one that values the existing urban and social fabric ('tabula scripta'). To this end, the designer thoroughly familiarized himself with the problems of the rapidly growing city, examining a broad range of aspects besides architecture that include non-material matters, gentrification and culture. All these aspects were then given a place in the project. The well worked-up design develops a morphological typology that makes room for the multi-coloured lifestyle of the residents and their narratives. Thus, the project is about social contact, co-creation and sense of community. This aspect is expressed attractively and convincingly in the form of a graphic novel. The entrant's committed design attitude and boundless enthusiasm have produced a complete project worked up in every technical detail that gives those involved a credible framework within which to develop their residential environment.

Beyond the River; Designing for Antwerp - Nick van Garderen - TU-Eindhoven (architecture & urban design)

This project consists of two components, an impressive theoretical study and a design that is both urban and architectural. Each component is presented in a voluminous report. The urban design is meant to give shape to Linkeroever as an integral component of the city of Antwerp. This is achieved by developing the design wholly in terms of the tradition of the existing city on the opposite bank, Rechteroever. The designer deliberately chose to hark back to the formalist tradition of the existing city, grounding the developed urban configuration in that tradition. Impressive though the analysis is, the jury wonders why the medieval city on Rechteroever has to be the key source of inspiration for the design while the project pays little heed to the specific situation on Linkeroever and to the landscape structure there.

It is within this urban master plan that the new build for the Flemish Parliament has been designed. A key point of reference is once again found on Rechteroever, namely the Cathedral of Our Lady. The design for the parliament building has a heavily classicist character, meshing seamlessly with the formalist urban master plan. The question is whether this architecture fits the desired image of power today. The design is cleverly built up spatially and reveals the touch of a gifted designer.

Build with Memory - Ying-Ting Shen - ArtEZ CorpoReal (interior architecture)

This project proposes a strategy of post-disaster reconstruction that reuses the wreckage left on site. This means that reconstruction can start immediately, and that the wreckage represents memories of the destroyed buildings. The underlying idea is compelling and the subject well chosen. Drawing on traditional Taiwanese methods of construction, the designer has developed a toolbox that disaster victims can use to

build new homes. The method was tested using 1:1 models. The project makes little attempt at any real depth. The argument for the proposed lightweight, flexible construction method and the idea of reusing old elements is sympathetic.

City Hall Brussels - Josine Vos - TU-Delft (architecture)

'Rights of Nature' is the compelling frame of reference for the design for a new city hall in Brussels. As a result, the building's envelope and outdoor space are the focus of the design's development. The use of lime-hemp for the construction was found to leave a negative carbon footprint, its breathing capacities ensuring a pleasant indoor climate for the staff and an excellent biotope for the animals inhabiting the building's envelope. The frontage is detailed in such a way as to allow birds to nest there. The project's intention is to give nature an important place in the design and make the city hall a key component of Brussels' ecological network so as to be able to restore the city's ecosystem and biodiversity. The fragmentary presentation makes it difficult to judge whether the project has succeeded in its goal. What is clear, however, is that the design makes a worthwhile contribution to the discourse on the coexistence of humans and nature in the city.

A New Start - Elchan Koelijev - AvB Groningen (architecture)

Born in Azerbaijan and raised in the Netherlands, the designer of A New Start seeks to develop a school typology that gives the children in his home country the same opportunities he himself has enjoyed in the Netherlands. This lavish project seems to indicate that he has succeeded in his admirable intention. The design is based on a well-grounded study and an inventory of local educational needs. The whole is worked up using elements of Azerbaijan architecture, such as the Mehelle, a perimeter block with a central courtyard. With this school, actually a multi-purpose building housing a school, the designer can make a valuable contribution to discussions in Azerbaijan about reforming the school system. The project succeeds in its thoroughly human scale, the smooth transition from school to public domain and its sensitivity to context. The handling of materials and development of the floor plans remain somewhat rudimentary.

EUandME - Johan van Ling - AvB Rotterdam (urban design)

The task the designer has set himself is to optimize the synergy between Brussels, its inhabitants and the European programme. This new 'house for Europe' seeks to give tangible form to the European will to share. Intended for all Europeans and all citizens of Brussels, EUandME is to act as a catalyst in making the city's diversity productive.

It is a most compelling brief. The in-depth analysis and theoretical underpinning are presented in an exemplary report. In terms of planning quality, the project is right on target in all respects. The idea of siting the house for Europe at Gare du Midi, in the densely populated and most multicultural part of the city is first-rate. Again, the notion of returning currently estranged parts of the city to Brussels is of great relevance. The sympathetic intention of bringing together all segments of the population is given shape in a large-scale complex. It is hard to see exactly how the great 'connecting void' is to function as a public space for all population groups, from European expats to financially challenged migrants. That said, the building has been firmly integrated in the surrounding urban fabric.

Fuente - Antoine Bowers - AvB Arnhem (architecture)

The designer has returned to his homeland on Aruba and there designed a splendid and serene walking route along the ruins of the gold mill. The route is intended as a place where the island's inhabitants can withdraw from the hurly-burly of the island's tourism. The design succeeds convincingly in giving shape to that ambition. Its designer deftly stitches together a number of strategic interventions in the ruins on site with a walking route that expands on the qualities of the existing places. The comparatively small-scale brief opens up opportunities to dig deep. These opportunities have born fruit in the thoughtfully designed interventions, the study into the applied materials and the attention paid to the weather's influence on the visitor's perception of the place. The inspirational outcome reveals a talented designer at work.

Doggerland, the Breeding Ground of the North Sea - Ziega van den Berk - AvB Amsterdam (landscape architecture)

With this cutting-edge design for a wind farm on Dogger Bank, a shallow area in the North Sea, the designer has provided a rich ecosystem on the seabed for the marine life there. The project adds a whole new dimension to the design of wind farms at sea by hitching the brief to nature development on the seabed. The design brief is tackled in a highly original fashion by regarding the local residents, the marine life, as the client. This perspective allies the design to the work of Alexander von Humboldt and David Attenborough. The project looks at the ingredients of the wind farm through the eyes of the marine life, examining ways in which those ingredients can be employed to benefit the underwater habitat. This voyage of discovery takes the bases of the wind turbines as a frame of reference for developing an appropriate biotope, exploring and employing the entire palette of possibilities. These are worked up further using form studies, with the different gradients in height giving a greater diversity. The project reveals the ecological potential of wind farm construction for the biotope on the seabed. The developed strategy is realistic and effective. This magnificently presented project opens up an entirely new subject. It bears a highly personal signature, with the designer's fascination and the visual strength of the presentation both contributing, like a treasure map, to accessing the design's exceptional content.

Hoogtij - Freek van Riet - AvB Rotterdam (urban design)

This urban design project presents a powerful long-term perspective on the Dutch urbanization brief for the 21st century. At the centre of the planning process are the effects of climate change, and the rising sea level in particular. The designer correctly states that we should be taking action now rather than later. To this end he has developed four strategies: attack, defend, retreat and connect. Next, he manages to cleverly hitch these to what needs to be done in the Netherlands. The project consists of a well-balanced analysis set out in a fascinating and easy-to-read report. The research by design study is strongest in the solidly underpinned planning concepts. Regrettably the design remains sketchy and consequently abstract. Each of the four strategies is well grounded and attractively expressed. These are tantalizing proposals that address the various issues of sea level rise with relevant solutions skilfully worked up at the macro scale.

House of Rituals - Marco Sironi - TU-Eindhoven (architecture)

The House of Rituals, part buried in the Swiss mountain landscape, is an attractively designed sequence of devotional spaces intended to encourage human activity and social interaction. The design was preceded by an extensive study that makes a sensitive and associative analysis of the morphology of devotional spaces. The designer makes philosophical and spiritual connections with historical examples from architecture and contemporary figures like James Turrell and Tadao Ando, partly based on interviews he conducted with the Italian professor Agostino De Rosa. The complex is intended for the suicidal and the terminally ill. This choice colours all aspects of the complex, so that the project takes on a needlessly intense and gloomy air. This is compounded by the lack of clarity as to how the House of Rituals is to give meaning to the lives of its residents. In terms of spatial design quality the project has much to recommend it. It exhibits a singular spatiality, a personal interpretation of the vernacular architecture of which the designer made an extensive study.

MEMA - Eilien Neumann - AvB Rotterdam (architecture)

The concept underlying the MEandering Museum Antwerp consists of a sequence of vacant spaces and abandoned grounds along a route through Antwerp's Seefhoek neighbourhood. The aim is to make local Belgian art accessible to the general public. MEMA is part of the public space and slots naturally into the neighbourhood. The project began with the desire to give the museum typology a different tack, thereby bringing to an end the traditional notion of a museum as a stand-alone icon of white spaces. This desire is underpinned by an interesting broad-based typological study. The design has been developed as a sequence of attractive small-scale interventions seemingly inspired in large measure by architect Jan De Vylder. Together they constitute a museum of great size. The designer has obviously taken great pleasure in this exercise. The project has a refreshing modesty about it and the idea of using vacant spaces is first-rate. That said, the bravura of the designer's intentions seems to have slipped from view along the way. There has been little reflection on her part during the development process, so that the route fails to fully come alive. The question is whether the distance between the museum, however accessible, and the neighbourhood with all its social problems could be bridged in reality.

Meshworks of Care: Counteracting Neglect through Webs, Knots and Entanglement - Susie Cox - TU-Delft (architecture)

Set in Wood Green, a district in North London, this project proposes developing a network, or meshwork, of care. The idea is to use architecture to integrate care into the urban fabric. The sophisticated strategic plan constructs a sequence of small interventions. By making use of available locations in the district, caring institutions can in time grow together into a cohesive district network. This accumulation of care contributes to shaping a close-knit community and seems an excellent way of strengthening the district. Underpinning the design is a well-wrought essay about care. The concept as developed touches on various relevant themes that are not restricted to Wood Green, so that the project gains a more general relevance. In this respect it weds well with the 'Who Cares' initiative launched by the Dutch Government Architect.

While the urban and spatial interventions resort to modest means, the architectural component creates beautiful spaces that recall the work of Lacaton & Vassal, simple and effective. The multiple small interventions successfully combine as a single cohesive network. The project is not just a narrative, since the designed interventions

render it both tangible and credible. The subject is tackled with aplomb, while the project stays close to home, ultimately being about an average city district.

Not Just Another Solar Field - Florian Becker - WUR (landscape architecture)

This entry embodies a real project for an energy garden near Montfoort in Utrecht province. The design, which will be seen onto site soon, provides a multi-purpose garden alongside a field of solar arrays. Its designer has spoken with all the relevant stakeholders and familiarized himself with all possible technical and organizational prerequisites, from which he has distilled an extensive set of design guidelines. The idea of participation is interesting, but the resulting design fails to convince in its spatial quality. It has too much of a compromise about it.

Of Stones and Travelers - Riccardo Sforzi - TU-Delft (architecture)

This project examines the problem of overtourism in Venice and develops a toolbox to tackle this problem with architecture. Its strongest component is the analysis of the city combined with the development of tourism in Venice, which has taken over the entire city centre. That last-named aspect is expressed to perfection in the project's opening image in which oil extraction, as a metaphor for tourism, dominates the city. Proceeding from the analysis, the designer has developed a strategy to keep tourists longer in the city and to broaden the focus by drawing the city's industrial rear into the tourist realm. His idea is to give tourists a broader surface to explore and offer them the experience of the city as a whole. This is a very strong guiding principle, which he develops by transforming the 'storage tank island' at Porto Maghera into a new face for the city. The intention of offering tourists an attractive alternative to the historical inner city fails to materialize in the design. The image it presents could have been more enticing. The project fails to convey the exceptional qualities tourists would experience in this other context, thereby encouraging them to remain longer in the city but not in its centre.

Poku Oso | Conservatorium Suriname - Lindsey van de Wetering - AvB

Amsterdam (architecture)

This exquisite project for the Suriname conservatory takes the spectator on an inspiring cultural journey with a presentation that is absolutely spot on. The deeper one gets into this project, the more fascinating it becomes. The design draws together a great many elements into an extremely consistent project. The various pavilions comprising the conservatory are projected in a dilapidated park. This context and the designed function are made to relate in every imaginable way. The park itself, the wind, the rain and the birds all have a part to play at the conservatory. The architecture of the music buildings was inspired by the traditional wooden houses of Suriname. They themselves function as musical instruments, for example a string house whose walls vibrate with the music, the wind and the rain, and a woodwind house assembled from architectural mouthpieces. This architecture of sound ushers in an entirely new and original expression. In addition, the project adds a new dimension to the term nature-inclusive through the interaction between the park and its occupants. The music buildings are magnificent and worked up in the greatest detail. The presentation with its models, drawings and films is a thing of real beauty.

Power, Dreams, and Indifference. Architectural Means in a Young Kosovo - Annebé Brouwer - TU-Delft (architecture)

This project for a meeting place for young people in Kosovo seeks to bring them into contact with each other, give them a place of their own in the city and open up opportunities for them to take part in the community. The project addresses an urgent theme and was realized in association with UN Habitat in its quest to involve the citizens of the deeply divided Kosovo to a much greater degree. This important task is tackled extremely seriously and worked up convincingly. Underpinning the design is an extensive and well-grounded analysis of the situation. Next, the designer focuses on the serious problems surrounding young Kosovars. This calls upon a wide range of aspects but essentially it is about establishing social agency. The thoughtfully designed meeting place consisting of a trio of pavilions offers a great many points of contact for the city's young people, subtly creating a new perspective. This is a very ambitious plan yet it is highly likely that the proposed approach can work. Of course the project is about more than just meeting up. Building and maintaining the meeting place and teaching the young people skills are all part of the concept. Its architecture harks back to the vernacular, to the ways the local farming community builds, yet opening up what is traditionally introverted. The meeting place is cleverly designed, with a great spatial quality and a fine handling of materials and details. It captures the intended ambience well. The choice of site is extremely apposite, drawing the young Kosovars out of the centre to a place of their own overlooking the city. The project has been worked up well on all fronts. Its architect has shown great commitment, including working in Kosovo for much of the time. Power, Dreams, and Indifference holds the attention from start to finish.

Public Space as a Place of Reconciliation in Post-conflict Areas - Anna Ceglova - Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht (interior architecture)

This design for a multi-lingual theatre school seeks to set in train a process of reconciliation in the multi-ethnic environment of Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. The project began with a study into the options of strengthening social cohesion, which gives it a firm foundation on the social front. Its ambition of tackling the major social problem of widespread segregation and uniting the population is to be commended. However, the design falls short of that ambition, because of the sheer size of the problem and because the project's spatial development fails to provide enough points of access to make it work.

Re-assembling Semarang City - Widasari Yunida Putri - TU-Delft (urban design)

The overall theme addressed by this impressive urban design project is extremely relevant and so is the developed solution. The unstoppable land subsidence and sea level rise in the low-lying coastal areas of Semarang City in Indonesia is disastrous, particularly for the vulnerable groups living in the lower-lying parts of the city. The project presents a number of strategies that can be employed to combat the consequences of this predicament. A most interesting aspect is the introduction of local adaptive mechanisms implemented together with the local inhabitants. The jury has nothing but praise for the project's aims and intentions. The extremely exhaustive analysis is fully developed in the design using a comprehensive toolbox. Importantly in that respect, the project proposes strategies for self-help as well as providing urban design solutions. It even makes relevant proposals for the architecture. The well-wrought climate adaptation plan for the kampong contributes

credible solutions at every scale. The presentation is highly individual but hard to fathom owing to the sheer detail and the number of strategies on board.

Restoring the Flow - David Alberto Villegas Rodríguez - TU-Eindhoven
(architecture)

This attractive, dreamlike project explores Dordrecht's relationship with the water. The rising water level means that the rivers are increasingly hidden behind tall dykes. Interventions designed at three sites are to reacquaint Dordrecht's inhabitants with the dynamics of the water. These interventions succeed in this ambition and are well designed spatially with a great sensitivity to context. The dykes themselves act as places of social encounter. Regrettably, the design's architecture remains rudimentary, so that the project's development fails to fully come to life.

Solarchipelago - David de Boer - WUR (landscape architecture)

This landscape architectural project hitches the construction of solar farms to the ecological and urban development of the waters of IJmeer at Almere. This is an extremely relevant brief, as energy landscapes are a subject that requires considerable thought. Its designer has devised a most ingenious solution. The principal idea is to use solar farms not just to generate energy but also to create habitats. It is also a dynamic system. Once the desired habitat is in place, the solar panels are moved to the next location. The report presents a comprehensive study into ways of improving the quality of the ecosystems, whose results then informed the beautifully visualized design. As an experimental approach to the above issues, the project is extremely valuable. However, it fails to critically reflect on the result, which makes it difficult to estimate the quality of the specific solutions it presents.

Synchronizing Habitat - Nicole Garcia Vogt - TU-Delft (urban design)

This all-encompassing project presents a convincing 'eco-pragmatic' scenario for the Weser Estuary in the Wadden Sea. Based in part on a thorough analysis of local hydrodynamics, the project constructs three main strategies: a set of barrier islands, an absorptive edge and socio-ecological corridors. Six 'ecotone enhancement projects' have been worked up in the greatest and most precise technical detail. Proportionately less attention has been paid to how the whole is perceived. The human perspective is certainly there, but mainly where aspects of health are concerned. The project is so wide-ranging with no stone left unturned that it would take a multi-disciplinary team of experts to estimate its worth on every front. The presentation would have benefited from a more hierarchical distinction between primary and secondary aspects.

The project takes a heavily objectifying approach yet has clearly been made with great sensitivity, as is evidenced by the presentation with its superb visualizations.

Terminus - Mick Dubois - AvB Maastricht (architecture)

The future vision for the ring road at Charleroi in Belgium presented in this project has a strongly personal slant. It starts with the designer's fascination with that city, which is then expressed in aesthetic and associative terms. Whereas some personal projects tend to be hermetic, this one catches the viewer's imagination. Its principal underlying idea is that the city is to be free of cars by 2070, at which time the ring road need no longer be a barrier. The design takes the first steps in investing in a new start for Charleroi by opening up the area beyond the ring road. Though the design for a city block at the former ring road remains somewhat rudimentary, it is

interesting because of its avant-garde architecture and the dark impression it makes, all of which ties in with Charleroi's industrial past and image.

Test#1; The Island - Jacopo Grilli - AvB Amsterdam (urban design)

The design presents the Randstad conurbation as an island, for which the designer surprisingly introduces the imaginative process as his principal design tool. It is certainly a very personal project that reflects the designer's own fascination – it starts with the garden in front of his house – but also embraces some major themes. The design consists of a strengthened ring road accompanied by urbanization and infrastructure around the entire Randstad, with a green heart at its centre, as a response to the rising sea level. Armed with the powerful imagery in the presentation, the designer then makes of the threat a strength by developing a megalomaniac plan. Every imaginable theme gets handled within the developed concept. Interestingly enough, the detail development addresses qualities in the real world and the interventions are firmly grounded. It is a courageous project, perhaps excessively so, but that's all part of graduating. It makes weighty statements and balances between the Utopian and the dystopian. There is a divide between the promise held out by the magnificent drawings and the detail development: the project loses strength the more concrete it becomes. Indeed, the sections are downright disappointing. This designer is primarily an inspirator who is able to fire the imagination.

The Operating Venetian Lagoon: The Agency of Barene - Amina Chouairi - TU-Delft (landscape architecture)

This landscape project presents a smart and well-developed system to safeguard the ecological survival of the brackish marshlands of the Venetian Lagoon. It is most likely that the proposed interventions would work in practice. The design benefits from the rock-solid analysis that precedes it. The threat to the lagoon's ecosystem comes from sea level rise and human actions. The designer makes use of sedimentation techniques based on the workings of the 'barene', the brackish marshlands characterizing the Venetian Lagoon. These workings are stimulated by a meticulously designed system of little dykes and watercourses that guide the flows and promote sedimentation. It is a convincing project that also makes a place for small-scale low-key tourism. The elevated walkway structures that wind their way through part of the lagoon are too prominent to be entirely convincing. As a landscape project, however, it is of exceptional interest.

This Shophouse Is Not for Sale - Devina Amelia - KABK Inside (interior architecture)

This personal project seeks to revitalize the shophouse built by the designer's Chinese grandparents in Sukabumi, a town in West Java. The intention is to develop the neighbourhood where it stands into a prototype for an area where family businesses and craftspeople can ply their trade. The prevailing trend these days is that shophouse owners are being bought out, with small-scale trade replaced by huge shopping complexes targeting people in a higher income bracket. The gap between these and the poor living in the back alleys is steadily widening, thereby undermining the cohesion of local communities. The designer uses the lessons learnt from the history of her grandparents' shophouse to develop an alternative concept where the informal economy can flourish, a concept of great importance for uniting the entire local community. This response has yielded a credible project whose

strategy has been well thought through. The project is more concerned with developing the programme than the spatial design, which remains at a rudimentary stage.

Towards the Inclusive Village - Ron van den Heuvel - AAS Tilburg (urban design)

The designer presents a sympathetic strategy for revitalizing the village where he lives. The master plan enters in depth into every possible aspect of village life. Its approach is convincing, with all component designs developed in a process of participation. The mock-humorous motivation for the project, beginning with the rant about life in the city and the consumer society, has something obligatory about it. On the other hand, the ambition of improving the quality of life in the village and strengthening the sense of community succeeds admirably.

WeGrowCo: An Open Building Strategy - Job van den Heuvel - TU-Delft (architecture)

This impressive project seeks to develop the new Strandeiland at IJburg into a fully circular, bio-based and self-sufficient neighbourhood. This sees the designer elaborating on the open building strategy of John Habraken and Frans van der Werf. The strategy, which is to be applied at all scales, is explained clearly in the report. Future residents are involved in the process from day one, so that the intended community will have been formed even before the neighbourhood has been built. The concept begins with the cultivation of hemp on Strandeiland. Next, the open building strategy is invoked by designing a wooden support for the facilities producing hempcrete for building the neighbourhood. Each support is later transformed into open galleries for the future houses. Residents can then build their own homes of hempcrete as an infill for the support. The project convinces as a system but the architectural expression seems insensitive to its future residents. The comprehensive project has been fleshed out impressively at every scale.