Post Graduate Studies
Landscape Architecture

School of Architecture, Faculty of Technology
School of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture,
Forestry and Natural Environment
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Municipality of Thessaloniki
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Landscape architecture
International Student Competition
THESSALONIKI 2014 award

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On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of our Postgraduate Program, the first in Landscape Architecture at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and among all Greek Universities, we announced in 2013 the International Student Competition on Landscape Architecture, Thessaloniki 2014 “Re-designing the cityscape from the forest to the seafront: Tritis Septemvriou Street”.

The Postgraduate course is a Joint Program between the School of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering and the School of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment, administrated by the former. It leads to an MLA two years Master degree Diploma in Landscape Architecture, recognized by IFLA, the International Federation of Landscape Architects and ECLAS, the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools.

In the same context, the International Symposium “Landarch Competition, Thessaloniki 2014” has been organized, for the presentation and the Award ceremony of the competition, as well as the Exhibition of the winning projects at the City Hall of Thessaloniki.

The publication under the title “Landscape Architecture. International student competition. Thessaloniki 2014 Award”, summarizes the whole effort and forms a memorandum to the successful completion of the first decade, 2003-2014, of the program, as well as a springboard and foresight for the next one.

We celebrate the transition from one decade to the next, from the present to the future, from the previous institutional context to a new one.

We celebrate the successful recruitment of the Greek society with landscape architects, experts on the design, planning and the rehabilitation of the Greek landscape, for its upgrade, the sustainable development and programming of the urban, rural and the natural environment.

Specialized technicians and geo-technicians in landscape and large environmental projects, dealing with all sort of projects and scales, such as urban design, natural resources management, transport, residential and touristic development, green infrastructure, ecological management etc.

We celebrate the joy that our graduates have given us through their achievements during their studies, with distinctions, scholarships, awards and finally as professionals, by their recruitment in the public and private sector as well as in the academic society.

We are glad for the work that has been carried out, either on a research basis with participations in conferences, or by the high-class design work that has been recognized and awarded in exhibitions and competitions.

The Landarch Competition, Thessaloniki 2014, summarizes our scientific aspects and the educational and research practices, and aspires to come into contact with Schools and Departments of Landscape Architecture all over the world.

It symbolizes our will to reward the excellence in the studies, and derives from our deep belief that landscape architecture, which is already being taught for the last 50 years by the two Schools of our postgraduate program, forms an applied field of comprehending and designing open space, especially useful nowadays in Greece.

With the experience of a past international student competition, the Robert Schmidt Prize 1993 carried out under the auspices of the German Ministry of Environment, in which the School of
Architecture and Thessaloniki were invited to participate, as well as the experience of multiple participations and distinctions of our post-graduate program, we organized the International Student Competition “Re-designing the cityscape from the forest to the seafront: Tritis Septemvriou Street”.

It aimed at promoting landscape architecture projects within the context of a socio-ecological and perceptual approach, for regeneration, sustainability and upgrading of the urban environment. The theme refers to a physical corridor, running from the slopes of Kedrinos Lofos to the seafront of Thermaikos Gulf, along with the adjacent urban sites or grounds of significant importance, such as the Waterfront Park, the City Hall and Museums, the International Fair and archaeological findings, the Universities.

Students were asked to transform the existing urban landscape into a viable space for inhabitants and visitors, by taking into consideration the site’s potential for re-establishment of the lost continuity, public life and perception, ecological upgrade, to design a new landscape coming out from the existing one in the base of the site’s caring capacity, natural and cultural.

The challenge was huge, given the existing means and the economic difficulties the Greek University is currently facing.

It is the first time for the Greek University that an International Student Competition is established. It has been completed with great success and with much notable participation from other universities from France, Sweden, Germany, Slovenia, Canada, Great Britain and Greece.

We thank all who have trusted us:
To begin with, the Minister Mr Panagiotis Lafazanis, Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy, YPAPEN, ex IPEKA, as well as the previous Minister, Professor Yiannis Maniatis, for their support by setting the competition under the auspices of the Ministry and the funding, through the Green Fund of the first two prizes.

Special thanks, to Mr Lafazanis for his positive respond to our invitation to honor us with his presence in the “Landarch Competition 2014” and the Award.

We thank the Deanery of the Faculty of Engineering and especially the Dean, Professor Konstantinos Katsambalos for his sincere support, during all the stages of the Competition, as well as to our Program over time.

Thank you for the funding of one prize and the distinctions that the Dean will attribute.

Many thanks, to the Rector Professor Panagiotis Mitkas, who honors us with his presence at the Award, and his full support through the Research Committee, both for the Competition and the Symposium.

We thank the Municipality of Thessaloniki and especially the Mayor Yannis Boutaris for his co-operation in the Competition, which we hope will be proven useful for the city.

Also, for the grant of access to the Conference Room of the Municipal Council for the transaction of the Symposium and the Award of the winning teams.

Most of all we thank our dear colleagues of the Greek and the International Jury of the Competition for their valuable contribution and their high quality preparation and assessment of the competition: Ioannnis Tsalikidis, Georgios Papakostas, Georgios Zoidis, Aleka Karadimou - Gerolympou, Sotirios Tsouris, Magda Pitsiava, Maria Tratsela, Konstantinos Varotsos, Michael Corajoud, Simon Bell, Valerio Morabito, Robert Holden, together with the undersigned.
Unfortunately the landscape has lost Michel Corajoud, “Le paysage a perdu son Corajoud”, as we were informed during the assessment phase of the competition in October 29 2014. We have lost not only a judge, but a friend and a teacher, the great Landscape Architect honored with the Grand Prix du Passage and the Grand Prix d’ l Urbanism, France.

The memorandum to him, during the Symposium, is only a minimum tribute to his immense work and whatever each one of us owes to him, especially those of us who had the chance to be one of his students.

We also thank the Technical Committee who has supported this venture, executives and the graduates of our Master Program: Anastasia Papadopoulou, Anastasia Mavridou, Eleni Athanasiadou, Vasilis Charistos, Efthymis Charalampidis.

We congratulate the awarded students and thank all the students from various Landscape Schools and Universities who have honored us by taking part in this Competition.

With the results of the Competition, we hope to have contributed in landscape architecture theory and practice with projects, proposed as society projects, projects of art and culture, upgrading the urban environment and the life quality, designing the contemporary city scale metamorphoses. Especially for the landscape of Thessaloniki, it is not the first time, as the contribution of the Master Program in Landscape Architecture has been very valuable so far, with numerous applied projects, scientific and design work for the redesign of the urban landscape. I mention the “Landscape Architecture – 100 Projects for the city – Thessaloniki 2012”, the Strategic and Operational Plan for the City and the Sheik-Sou of OR.TH., the Organization of Planning and Environmental Protection of Thessaloniki.

We believe that the 50-year contribution of our University in the architecture of the urban landscape of Thessaloniki form a springboard for the formation of a local policy according to the modern needs of sustainable development and the increasingly demanding perspective of the urban environment.

Maria Ananiadou - Tzimopoulou
Emeritus Professor, School of Architecture, AUTh
Landarch Competition. Thessaloniki. 2014

After twelve years of continuous and close co-operation between the School of Architecture and the School of Agriculture of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in the Post graduate Program of Landscape Architecture, along with the unrelenting effort of all the teaching staff, we were in the pleasant position to organize an International Landscape Architecture Student competition, hoping that it will be the starting point for a new legacy established in the years to come.

Landscape architecture and urban design student competitions are opportunities to assert the value of the first –landscape architecture– in the urban public realm, while still creating a fruitful dialogue among students from different design disciplines. Interdisciplinarity plays a key role in the way such competitions should be managed and the benefits that students gain. Understanding of plants' needs, awareness of the ground as a dynamic system and the general ability to incorporate ecological and hydrological systems as major design elements is essential to the sustainability of a designed landscape. At the same time, the design procedure involved taking into consideration complex socio-economical needs and finally shaping how a proposal is presented and responds to the public.

Through such competitions students have the opportunity to have their work reviewed alongside that of their peers from around the world. The discipline required to prepare a competition entry is a very useful exercise for students, and helps them prepare for some of the rigors of professional life.

In the case of this competition, the broad nature of the selected topic and the liberty provided in the design approach allowed the participants to address local issues while fitting into their educational background. Furthermore, much insight was given into what students are thinking about the urban landscape. What are they concerned about? How do they see the role of landscape architecture? How do they see themselves?

The theme of the competition refers to a physical corridor, running from the slopes of Kedrinos Lofos to the seafront of Thermaikos Gulf, along with the adjacent urban sites or grounds of significant importance: Waterfront Park, City Hall, Archaeological Museum, Museum of Byzantine Culture, International Fair, Military Headquarters, Early-Christian archaeological findings, two University Campuses, Underground station, Sports Museum, sport fields, the Hortatzidon stream, and Kedrinos Lofos. Students were asked to develop planning ideas and innovative design proposals in order to reform the landscape image, upgrade the environmental qualities and values, enhance the unique landscape identity and promote sustainability. The final goal was to transform the existing urban landscape into a viable space for inhabitants and visitors, by taking into consideration the site's potential. That is: re-establishment of the lost continuity by eliminating space fragmentation, public life and perception, ecological upgrade, and implementation of sustainable environmental practices. Finally, it has been important to assess the quality of the proposals on the basis of the following three criteria: Landscape architectural quality, Quality of urban living, Environmental awareness.

The Jury Committee, was formed by Greek academics, specialized on the fields of landscape architecture and architecture, ecology, town planning, engineering, art, and distinguished internationally recognized landscape architects.
The selection of the entries was carried out in two stages. In the first stage the Jury examined all the entries. Those entries considered to be exemplary, were forwarded to the second stage for further examination.

In this competition, it has been clear that students have paid attention to both the natural and the cultural landscape. The most successful projects have been those in which the students have clearly understood their context, and have employed a rigorous analytical method, as well as strong design principles and execution. Ecological crises, the shocking destruction of heritage landscapes, social inequities, and the overall relationship between people and their environment are issues that have dominated the submissions. There is typically a range of projects from practical and site-specific, to conceptual and experimental, and the submissions represent the broad spectrum of the profession of landscape design, with urban and natural subjects. The graphic communication of the projects seems evolved and indicates that university programs continue to lead in this area.

I would like to thank all the teams that participated in this competition, regardless of their obtaining an award or not. After all, as it is best expressed by the basic principle of the Olympic Games: “The importance lies within taking part in the competition and not winning it.”

Ioannis A. Tsalikidis
Deputy Head of the Landscape Architecture Postgraduate Studies, AUTh
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the competition
Re-designing the cityscape from the forest to the seafront: Tritis Septemvriou Street

International student competition 2014 Thessaloniki, Greece
landarch-competition2014.web.auth.gr
competition’s brief

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

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

Introduction: the theme

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary for the establishment of the first academic program in Landscape Architecture in Greece (2003-2013), the Post-Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki announces an international student design competition, on the subject of the re-synthesis of the cityscape of Thessaloniki’s Tritis Septemvriou Street. The Program in Landscape Architecture is offered by the School of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, and the School of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Environment of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, administrated by the former.

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

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

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

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

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

– Landscape architectural quality
– Quality of urban living
– Environmental awareness
Reinventing the city, regenerating a territory, reclaiming a street is part of a global scale.
Transformation processes are complex and are part of a long-time space continuum: an open temporality that goes beyond the decision time.

Our posture is decidedly focused on the appropriation of this long-time space continuum in the regeneration of the street, it combines short and long terms interventions within the same area by combining landscape and time. The landscape should serve as a political lever in the territorial transformation, time as programmatic tool for the establishment of a real spatial strategy. Creativity and innovation in the answers must now afford to continue to evolve public space no matters the economic environment.

From the image of forestry, we chose to mark time continuum, especially the long time continuum through tree growth. This is to provide a foreshadowing landscape which immediately liven up the site and encourage its appropriation without sealing his fate instantly.

Framework in progress may a. foresee courses of action that gradually rebalance the sharing of the street, b. stimulate and activate a process of urban reclaiming through sports, cultural and social events, and c. suggest flexibility adapted to times of crisis, both in space and in time.
FROM THE FOREST TO THE SEAFRONT

In the heart of the city, from the forest to the seashore, a particular geography emerges and reveals itself. The strategic location of Thessaloniki战略布局重大意义，city by the channel of Thermaic, and its industrial backdrop, deserves a comprehensive public analysis.

Bordering the coastline, the city's eastern axis is a continuous strip composed by three main streets: Leof. Meg. Alexandrou, Leof. Vasileos Georgiou, and Leof. Stratou. These streets, once the main thoroughfare for the city, have seen a significant transformation over time. However, the recent development of the city has not fully exploited the potential of these streets, leading to a fragmented urban landscape.

The landscape strategy plays with the existing urban fabric, transforming it into a pivotal piece of the city's identity. It is the support for appropriation and of the framework to explore new territories. The urban regeneration is organized along a dual-layer frame. The heterogeneous urban fabric encompasses a diverse range of architectural styles and historical periods, which are the foundation for the city's unique character.

The heterogeneous urban fabric encompasses a diverse range of architectural styles and historical periods, which are the foundation for the city's unique character. To reconnect clusters to the street, it is necessary to identify the key nodes that can act as real geographical hooks. The frontal access to the waterfront and the university place play a structural role across the city, enabling a structuring role for the street.

On this urban axis, three areas have a pivotal role in the citywide development: the promenade at the bottom of Tritis Septemvriou street is a real precursor of reclaiming public space. The landscape strategy is a powerful tool for this purpose, transforming green spaces into open public areas. The balance of reconnection by breaking clusters' edges, but rather to connect clusters to the street identity. It is not simply a question of building outdoor areas. The balance is a must release within the urban regeneration. The architecture urbanism has developed in a crescent-shape constrained by the forest and the waterfront. The layout of Titris Septemvriou Street is a great opportunity to lead a pivotal role in the citywide.

The street public realm is an open public character that is both functional and structural. It is the support for appropriation and of the framework to explore new territories. The conceptual plan of the new landscape allows to conceal the new landscape among the old. The structural framework settles as a precursor of urban regeneration. The architecture urbanism has developed in a crescent-shape constrained by the forest and the waterfront. The layout of Titris Septemvriou Street is a great opportunity to lead a pivotal role in the citywide.

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The project aims to take advantage of the large range of activities, from ties clusters is conducive to the development. Emphasis is given to improve the streetscape through the military site into a real cityscape through the park softly redeveloped. Emphasis is given to improve ecological qualities of natural habitats: the wooded area following on from the forest above (Angiou dimitriou street). The project anticipates the transformation of the vacant site, reinvested.

In the upper part of Titris Septemvriou Street, Sheik-su forest extends into the wooded area following on from the forest above (Angiou dimitriou street). The project anticipates the transformation of the vacant site, reinvested.

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