

European 7, Estonia and Sweden

Jury report

Results in short:

	Winner:	Runner up:	Honorable mention:
Pärnu:	IT123	IV606	AA110, MO193, JT547
Tallin:	EN 280	EZ420	EE003
Helsingborg:		BX110, JS82 3	MM996, TI800
Gårdsten:	WE835	DM360	CM707, WN342
Kristianstad:	BA378	JS232	

The Jury:

Ines Uusmann	Director of the Swedish Building Authorities. Chairman of the jury.
Klas Tham	Architect and urbanist, Sweden.
Urmas Muru	Architect and painter, Estonia.
Hans André	Housing director, the Municipal Housing Company of Växjö, Sweden.
Andres Kurg	Architecture historian, Estonia.
Fredrik Lund	Architect, Norway.
Helena Njiric	Architect, Croatia.
Sten Gromark	Architect, Sweden. (substitute for Vilen Künnapu)
Tiit Trummal	Architect, Estonia. (substitute for Peter Zumpthor)

Prizewinners:

ESTONIA

PÄRNU:

Winner:	IT123:	Oana-Maria Bogdan (Romania), Heverlee Associates: Susan Kelly Shannon, (USA) Ivan Juny Llach, (E) Raquel Colacios Parra, (E) Laura Vescina, (Argentina)
Runner up:	IV606:	Klas Moberg (S), Göteborg Associates: Anders Holmer (S) Jenny Andersson (S)

Honorary Mentions:

JT547:	Martin Kaiser (D), Berlin Associates: Julia Neubauer (D) Jens Betcke (D) Giuseppe Pesenti, (Italy)
MO193:	Uriel Fogue (E), Madrid Associates: Fermina Garrido (E) Marcelo Faiden (Argentina) Contributor: Javier Chicharro (E), student of arch.
AA110:	José Luis Bezos Alonzo (E), Sevilla Contributors: M. Ángeles Lerín Ruesca (E), stud. of architecture. Juan Socas Hurtado (E), stud. of architecture

TALLINN:

- Winner: EN280: Andres Fernandez Atela (E), London
Ass: Mathieu Andrieu (F), photographer
Iman Morshedi (GB), graphic designer
- Runner up: EZ420: Peter Carrol(Ireland), Madrid
Ass: Elisa Silva (USA)
Carla Bovio, (Argentina)
- Honorary Mention:
EE003: Eike Sindlinger(D), London
Ass: Ulrike Steven (D)
Gareth Morris, (GB)

SWEDEN

HELSINGBORG:

- Runner up: BX110: Martin Clase (S), Göteborg
Associates: Mikael Ekegren (S), Göteborg
Oskar Göttestam (S), fysisk planerare
Robert Karlsson (S), student of architecture
- JS823: David Sherman (USA), Copenhagen
Associates: Peter Kjaer (DK)
Contributors: Matt Day (Australia) Rikke Bukh (DK)
- Honorary Mentions:
MM996: Caroline Olsson (S), Lund
Contributor: Ida Järnland (S)
- TI800: Carsten Holgaard (DK), Copenhagen.
Contributors: Jonas Rune Sangberg (DK)
Nikolaj Frölund Thomsen (DK)

GÖTEBORG:

- Winner: WE835: Joakim Lyth (S), Göteborg
Ass: Mikael Frej (S)
Anders Olausson (S)
- Runner up: DM360: Linda Andersson (S), Göteborg
Ass: Carl-Johan Viklund (S)
- Honorary Mentions:
CM707: Christer Rabe (S), Göteborg
Associate: Mikael Stenqvist (S)
- WN342: Matilda Brandberg (S), Göteborg
Associate: Vanja Larberg (S), Göteborg

KRISTIANSTAD:

- Winner: BA378: Agnieszka Zajac (POL), Wroclaw
Associate: Bartosz Bielecki (POL)
Contributor: Artur Tobola (POL)
- Runner up: JS232: Jesus Mateo (E), Madrid

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The selection of the awarded proposals hasn't in any case been obvious, but is the result of long discussions within the jury. It has been clear, however, that an immense amount of work has been put into the competition proposals, offering in its totality a rich and enlightening material to be referred to by the participating cities in the future developing processes of their sites. The finally awarded projects have been considered especially valuable in providing a base for such work and also for displaying distinct structural, innovative and artistic qualities. The jury has during its work discussed certain general tendencies, taking into consideration all of the submitted projects. Some comments by the individual jury members on the entries for the Estonian and the Swedish sites were:

- ✍ The European language has been developed in terms of graphics, which is supported by the computer design.
- ✍ It's striking how many proposals focus on achieving graphic beauty and cogency instead of clarity and comprehensibility. This makes it hard for the jury to rightly evaluate the qualities of the content in the proposals
- ✍ Many entries make interesting contributions in parts or in details, whilst rather few have mastered the difficult wide span in planning - from the urban to the individual dwelling.
- ✍ Worrying to see the large scale of the suburban structures of the 1960's being repeated, as if nothing has been learnt from their documented shortcomings, worrying to see all megastructures, not showing sufficient comprehension for the multiplicity of the city. This quality could instead be reached by strong urban plans, securing the quality of the public space, simultaneously allowing for many different developers and architects to act, also within the individual block.
- ✍ Entries for the south european sites are still contextual, having thoughts on public spaces in different manners; whereas the entries for the northern European sites have shown neither interior richness, nor a research on new common urban open space.
- ✍ European is about new housing strategies where this clever generation has to do more effort in terms of how to organize a settlement, how to design living space – as a flat, house or agglomeration. After all, we have a new generation of European architects, using common icons, showing zero identity, missing playfulness and enthusiasm, having no ego, which is scary.....

The jury has in the end been unanimous in its final selection for the awards, except for the winner in Kristianstad where Fredrik Lund made a reservation and for the runner-up in Pärnu where Klas Tham made a reservation.

Jury assessments, Estonian sites:

Pärnu

The situation

The present spa town of Pärnu attracts the young by its beaches and the bustle of summer events, and the not so young by its fresh air, mud baths, accompanied by peace and quiet. In the 1930s, quondam mediaeval town Pärnu was built up as a modern internationally renowned summer capital. Resort industry is the most important business activities of Pärnu. The competition area is one of the six hotbeds of the spatial development activities, located in a new resort region.

The competition and study areas are unimproved former town pastures with naturally developed flora, partially covered with vegetation to be preserved. The area is penetrated by ditches and random paths leading to the shore. The area is level, occasionally wet, and is 2.0 m above the sea level at the maximum.

The Project

Until now the new beach area has been developed by particular buildings on random plots, with areas of unspecified use in between. The area has not become an integrated urban space, despite its location very close to the central part of Pärnu. The competition aims at combining the urban structure fragments into a whole. Needed is balance with the natural shore area and constructed neighbourhood. The competition project must focus on the relations between the residents through the architectural and planning solution. Traffic and parking must be convenient without disturbing domestic peace.

The site must become a comfortable living, working and recreational region with diverse services and high quality of infrastructures. The housing must also offer an aesthetic impression with variety of architecture. Planning aim is ensuring a free access and partly view to the remaining shore area, the residential area must be mostly public space, only a conditionally separated. Important is to combine the natural and urban landscape. The social activities importance increases towards the area of seaside. The site average total floor space could be ca 60 000 m² (excluding the study area).

A neurotic period seems to have started in Estonian architecture. Buildings get finished before their plans. The reason for this is that the initiative usually comes from private undertakings and cities are unable to catch up. The city of Pärnu wishes the competition to be different: it wants to solve the planning issues first and then sell the plots with specific building rights to the private sector. A plot in Pärnu seems like an easy task – an empty space by the sea, like a window into infinity. However, it has its problems; it is a place where a heavy traffic street turns into a beach, an active beach zone turns into a natural area worthy of protection, and the axis of an existing street runs toward the beach. Besides, an eight-storeyed aquatic centre was recently built next to the competition area and this has greatly changed the scales of the area. Perhaps it is understandable in this context that a work rich in planning won the first place in Pärnu. But architecture not just planning. Planning is the most rational part of architecture. The identity of a place often lies in its irrationality and psychological impact. The Pärnu runner-up is a work of such a strong individual quality.

1st prize:

IT 123

The components of this design originate from the existing milieu of Pärnu: axes, regular quarters, separate zones of public buildings, blocks of flats and small residential buildings, winding park paths. The build-up of the project is very logical. Larger volumes are placed opposite active neighbourhoods, there are smaller volumes between these and the natural area, and the natural area is linked to the beach. The active beach zone is directed toward the city via a boardwalk. Visitors to Pärnu may perform their ritual on the axis pointing toward the sea: go to the beach, touch the water, and leave. The blue colour of the design describes the sentiment of Pärnu. The project is easy to develop in stages and the inhabitants of Pärnu would easily adopt it. As there are floods in the area, the idea of artificial canals serves no particular purpose.

Runner up:

IV 606

The work is powerful and delicate at the same time. It cracks the consciousness of the people living in Pärnu. Existing limitations to height have to be removed and new ones have to be imposed on streets. Although there is objection to tall buildings in Pärnu and people like to drive their car to their front door, everything is possible. The intensifying traffic in Tammsaare street and the aquatic centre obviously reduce the intimacy of the design. The work has the sensual qualities inherent to a work of art. The project is very difficult to develop by stages, as the buildings are related to a system of bridges. The logistics of a finished building cannot be arranged via a construction site. Temporary structures are apparently needed, as the project is too large to implement in one piece.

Honorary mentions:

MO 193

Such free-form planning is, of course, innovative in the Pärnu context. The design will certainly be effective within the quarter and by the sea. Its functionality next to the developing traffic mains and the active aquatic centre is doubtful. Although “nature philosophy” must not be criticised these days, it should be said that the greenhouses would shield off the little sunshine there is in summer, and would consume very much energy in winter. A sensitive, but overly consistent work. Integral. Desirable. As biotechnology develops, a biological, soft form has attracted wider attention and is exiting as everything that is new. The graphics of the work are of an excellent quality. A work bustling with positive energy.

JT 547

A sensitive work. The design has a metaphysical quality. An intriguing time factor – the houses are different in summer and winter. Considering the insecure Estonian environment, houses that can be closed is a good idea. Connection to the city is vague. An enjoyable work.

AA 110

This is a dream city – fluid, quiet, amorphous, and spooky. Better not wake up, as you might long for something different. The level of specification and the quality of presentation are very good. Pärnu should build at least one of these ‘molluscs’. Why not with a restaurant or a museum. An integral system. The area under the bridge may cause certain social problems. The price of the constructions is apparently very high compared to the size of the resulting area. A stylish work.

Tallinn

The situation

In the conurbation of Tallinn, the competition area is located in the district of Lasnamäe, which is with its 109000 residents the largest residential area in Tallinn. The city district was planned in the 1970s as a model of a futuristic ideal city, but has not fully been completed by today. The so-called "micro-areas" on both sides of the trunk road running as an axle and the location of apartment buildings under free planning, without any private space in between buildings, create a city that once symbolized “progress” and “democracy”.

The site is located in Paevälja, at the seaside area of Lasnamäe, situated on a limestone bank which is flat, windy, unimproved and has poor flora. The strong geological foundation does not impose any restrictions on the number of storeys of buildings. The relative height of the bank is 20 metres and it is a natural obstruction for the city in between the sea and the bank. Future main streets, with a nature park on the edge of the bank, are planned to south and north from the site. The lot belongs to the municipality. Development projects are also being prepared for neighbouring areas — Loopealse and Paekalda.

The project

All the elements of urban life must be intertwined, but balanced. It is necessary to contemplate an area for living, working and leisure, where public and private space are in right relation and diversity is supported by varied architecture. The aim is to find out an optimal solution for satisfying principal needs of the future residents. As the area is virginally untouched, it is possible here to implement the innovative ideas of living to a full extent. Structures may be created with diverse types of buildings, buildings can be given novel programmes and solutions, living can be discovered from the viewpoint of new technologies. Different functions must be balanced, even intertwined. The main issue is housing and recreation. The competition area is to be provided with a kindergarten, youth centre, family doctor's practice and information point; the study area with a centre of the local services or cultural enterprise.

The target groups are smaller families, young families, senior citizens, middle class residents seeking to improve quality of life, "nomads", i.e. travelling specialists.

Development advantages of the site are proximity to the town centre, long-distance views to the sea and downtown and an unlimited possibility to implement free and innovative ideas.

1st prize:

EN280

A very up scale urban proposition visualizing extended future. The entry sees the general weakness of the existing structure of urban organization of Lasnamäe housing district and proposes a very grand scale grid network for the whole area, trying to find new and unused possibilities for improvement of the existing urban tissue as well as for developing the future housing areas and to unify them into a workable synergetic urban field. The introduction of a very simple and regular, but cleverly designed rational grid would allow to use a large variety of urban techniques, including among the others the combination of larger perimeter blocks with smaller punctuated townhouses as in the worked out part of the competition area of the entry. The proposed scheme includes the possibility of viewing corridors towards the sea and green in-block-courtyards that achieve a rather readable human scale of the cityscape that displays a well proportioned upgrading from the present drab architectural image of out-of-scale Lasnamäe.

Presenting the first prize to the entry the jury stresses first and foremost the scope and profoundness of conceptual thinking of presented urban planning that somewhat overshadowed the architectural presentation of the housing part of the proposal, what still did not reduce the general merits of the work, considering the universality of the proposed urban scheme with its ability to adopt a large variety of planning and housing solutions.

Considering the possibility of the new general plan for Lasnamäe the jury sees the strong potential of the entry for the fruitful contribution to the future planning process.

Runner up:

EZ420

A well balanced entry in regards of fitting social and market demands of the existing urban situation in Lasnamäe. The urban scheme is based on a free pattern of universal large scale courtyard blocks that provide different housing typologies inside one unit, organized around a tightly landscaped courtyard, that would provide a wide choice of activities for its inhabitants. The different housing types that mix different scales and densities create a visually rich environment for these centre cores supported by additional public programs on its lower levels. The larger social infrastructure is created with the use of the similar block structure in combination with a wider choice of public programs including larger urban voids of open public parks and leisure areas. Introduction of free flowing urban geometry provides the richness of the new cityscape that is accentuated by higher apartment blocks, that provide a sense of human orientation and also serve as a visual link to the existing network of the large scale apartment blocks of the prefabricated neighbourhood of Lasnamäe.

Honorary mention:

EE 003

A very conceptual entry rises strong argumentation against the program and the choice of the site proposed by the organizers of the competition. Stating the uniqueness of the landscape on the edge of the Estonian limestone clint in the worldwide context, the entry calls for leaving the *alvar* landscape intact as a natural preserve and thus reducing considerably the area of available land for further housing development. The consequent rise of land price in the existing housing areas should bring more incentive into developing the existing unfinished housing blocks to the south from the competition area. The competition entry tries to discover and develop the hidden qualities of the prefabricated Lasnamäe as the heroic modern project. Proposing new types of housing based on combination of different new technologies using ecological materials and modern prefabrication, the entry achieves a more sustainable and greener living format that would meet a wide variety of human needs and attract new people to this unique combination of nature and advanced contemporary living style.

Honorary mention from the jury marks the importance of the attention drawn by the entry to the possibility of alternative development attitudes and the need for humanising the existing situation in modern concrete town Lasnamäe.

Last round entries:

SM 489

The entry challenges the scale of urban intervention proposed by the competition program. It calls for larger scale development that would match the existing scope of the huge prefabricated housing area nearby. The work deals with different aspects of the compression, stated as one of the cornerstones of European urbanity. Proposing a system of megastrips of contrasting densities and typologies the entry achieves a synergetic combination of lowrise/tightlypacked green courtyarded one family housing with high density/highrise mixture of housing towers and lower free shaped service/entertainment/business blocks. The three banded general structure merges skillfully the inner urban topography of the proposal

with the surrounding landscape and existing social segregation from the one side and the inside street network with the larger transportation framework of Lasnamäe from the other side. The entry provides a wide choice of different lifestyles and possibilities for social mobility inside the created environment.

The proposal would demand a massive urban development effort from both public and private sector, what could be problematic in the present circumstances.

EU 004

The entry deals with different grades of urban density displaying high visual density vs. low programmatic density. The scheme uses variable building and housing typologies based on a rectangular urban block achieving a wide array of living environments and rich variety of apartment types. The applied scheme allows to combine in the axis of scale/density as well as in the axis of program/intensity, that creates an universal patchwork of urban programming. It tries to define new relationships between the notions of private/collective/public in order to widen the scope of urban scriptwriting. Clever use of typologically different urban strips allows to create neighbourhoods of different qualities and to set a flexible system and timetable for developing larger urban tissue in longer perspective.

DA 004

The entry proposes a clear cut strategy for colonizing the seemingly intact wasteland by implementing a rather fragile network of distribution roads that would service an array of two basic types of development cores. The smaller “settlements” are lowrise units around tight inner courtyards which serve as access units. The apartments are opened to the outside, to the wild landscape of the frontier. The larger “biospheres” consist of rectangular housing blocks around landscaped and well kept courtyards that serve as focuses for surrounding living areas while the access to the apartments is given directly from the outside. The scheme makes clear distinction between developed spaces and intact landscape leaving the islands of inhabitation floating in the sea of wildlife. Such an arrangement would allow to introduce a very flexible development program with comparatively low spending on infrastructure and encourage the emergence of local small scale subcultures, but the same time could meet certain difficulties when these local communities start exercising social control over the apparently unregulated territories in between the housing units.

Jury assessments, Swedish sites:

Helsingborg_Ringstorpsvägen

The situation

The site is located within short pedestrian reach of the city centre and represents a major occasion for the extension of the city structure and urban fabric along the major communication thoroughfare towards the recently established Maria residential area in the northwest. The green park with a centrally positioned former water tower building as the focus point of concentrically organised allotment gardens is slightly lifted above the city and sea level and will receive the afternoon light providing free perspective views over the entire Öresund strait. The occasion is also set for the related restructuring of a commercial centre

just north of the site. Thus, these two future urban components together offering the possibility for long term development of a distinctive new urban part of Helsingborg.

The project

The project consists in providing urban design outlines for new building structures combining primarily small housing units with offices and commercial facilities at pedestrian street level along Ringstorpsvägen and delimited on the other side by the existing allotments. The redesign of the commercial square to the immediate north of the site, close to an important circulation roundabout, is optional but is to be considered as a vital component of the project as a whole. About 150-200 new dwellings are envisioned for the two sites. Special attention and due respect should be paid to the preservation or revalorisation of existing green structures around the water tower regarded as an important asset for the constitution of future identity and singularity of this new urban part of the city.

The key issue at stake is to provide for the convincing expression of distinctively urban, high quality housing with direct access to a natural park environment, leisure, sport and public facilities; to provide for a major occasion of urban architectural invention. The leftover dispersed fragment at the edge of the city core is in this situation offering the necessary constitutive element for the mutual discovery of surprising new qualities of housing diversity and urban intensity.

No single project succeeded in presenting a proposal for this context in an entirely satisfactory way, resulting in an estimate that a shared second prize between two equally good entries instead would be more appropriate, founding for a constructive follow-up on the competition.

As runner up was awarded BX110 – *Modul* - for the strong unifying concept and convincing urban architectural approach with new building blocks along the main thoroughfare and pedestrian walkway suggesting many qualities as a structure open for future diversity and further differentiation.

As runner up was also awarded JS823 – *Establishing differences* - For a high quality urban plan recombining and uniting existing elements for the creation of new unexpected qualities particularly with the introduction of the low level housing element together constituting a valid contribution to diversity and to the future identity of the site.

Runners up:

BX110

A simple and robust plan, with a continuous, horizontal elevation along the street based on classical motives, providing a strong backbone to the area, but with a certain risk of becoming too monotonous. The smaller buildings in the park are somewhat haphazardly placed and seem to disrupt the park; they could be excluded without any problems. The architectural expression is very strong, strict and realistic, shaping the buildings placed along the street as a unity, which however raises the question whether this project is possible to divide into different phases or properties. The solution for the centre is also simple and clear, even though the high-rise building is perceived as being unnecessarily high.

JS823

A clear and simple plan, consolidating the street, framing the northern part of the green site and thereby creating a space large enough to become a beautiful public park.

The proposal is perceived as open with respect to the architecture and allows for many different phases and projects within the planned area. Such a diversity could be profitable for the site and for the possibility of a flexible implementation. The buildings along Ringstorpsvägen are lifted up from the ground and are proposed with access balconies and external staircases towards the street, which diminishes the urban qualities of the plan. The solution for the centre is very simple and clear, but the banana-shaped building facing the roundabout is closing off too much of the area towards the street.

Honorable mentions:

MM996

An innovative urban plan comprising a narrow strip of buildings along the street, which is suggested to be transformed into a slow speed street/square hybrid, which leaves a lot to be explained. In the park a flexible area of caravans is suggested as the first phase of a development that is open to many possible future scenarios. The suggested architecture is interesting, but schematically shown, also indicating a large flexibility, creating poetic qualities hard to neglect in spite of the proposals somewhat diffuse character.

TI800

A meandering megablock structure, providing depth and thereby internal courtyards to the housing along the street. The orientation of these courts as shown, is problematic and not open enough to the sun or to the park. The houses are beautifully drawn, conceived as one block, with one unifying expression, which might make it difficult to implement. The suggested transparency of the buildings seems somewhat contradictory to the proposed system of access balconies.

Last round proposals:

EH478

A carpet of strips containing different functions replaces the existing park, forming an artificial landscape; interesting but highly questionable as the park is quite OK as it is. The proposed plan for the centre works fine, although the somewhat brutal appearance of the high-rise building fails to convince.

ET221

A playful and clearly presented proposal of earth-covered rowhouses, connecting in direction and scale to the allotment gardens. This attitude however also makes the proposal anti-urban and rather uninteresting towards the street. The apparent contextuality of the houses seems a bit superficial, as the lanterns on the hills/roofs refer to the scale of the small allotment houses, which is evident in the plan, but hardly in reality. Hardly possible to realize in Helsingborg

GO146

The plan forms a continuous meandering set of houses around the park, comprising a highly diversified set of combined typologies. The architecture is interesting, but the overall plan seems haphazardly conceived and is difficult to grasp.

HI133

An open and flexible plan, allowing for flexibility and three distinct phases of construction, who generally seem to work. The building types, however, are difficult to realize due to economical reasons, especially in the southernmost part of the site, where there are only one apartment per floor and staircase.

Göteborg _Gårdsten

The situation

The competition area is constitutres the entrance to the satellite suburb of Gårdsten about 15 km from the city centre of Göteborg. It is accessed indirectly by collective tramway transportation in combination with bus services. The site is characterised by the steep, forested and rough rocky slope and escarpment remaining from an unfinished intended circulation exchange apparatus and constitutes the main entrance hub to the high rise building block platforms above. Due to an ambitious redevelopment strategy initiated for the area, two of these huge structures have recently been demolished; others are refurbished and restructured to provide for new housing units with southward terraces as a special attraction. A new project with high density and low level terraced houses has been recently formulated and is intended to be implemented immediately north of the site, in order to provide access to a wider variety of attractive housing types within the area. The population within Gårdsten has a very multiethnic composition and is dominated by households with foreign origin.

The project

The prime objectives behind the project is formulated by the municipality as threefold : to design a proposed Medical centre office building with health care, sports and leisure facilities intended to publicly announce the entrance to the housing area in combination with suggestions for new housing alternatives, secondly to rearrange the circulation structure and in particular to provide for a new bus stop terminal facility and finally to establish a primarily pedestrian bridging link with existing built structures to the north and with the southern natural landscape across the major motorway. The latter shall be considered as part of a general strategy to link the many isolated urbanised island structures in this part of the city. The overall effect of these combined interventions is intended to provide the occasion for revitalisation of the area and to improve local image and identity, to promote respect and recognition for Gårdsten as a vital part of the city of Göteborg as a whole.

The result of the project in this situation is not to be regarded as a fixed object but rather as a dynamic, fluent and open vision, although enough detailed and precise to allow ideas to nourish and ultimately materialise, around which the mutual cultural negotiation for a new desirable future can be fully initiated.

First prize was awarded WE 835 – *Current* - for the subtle, mature and imaginative analysis with great insight to local realities leading up to a convincing and open design solution suggesting a reasonable level of intervention as a stimulating starting point for further discussion.

As runner up was awarded DM360 – *Fornatluxx* - for the excellent redesign of communication and circulation problems and for the convincing vision of a related new housing and office structure with many architectural qualities creating a distinctive new identity for the site.

1st prize:

WE835

A long and very sharp, but also sensitive and poetic analysis of the area, leading up to a humble proposal that gives a lot of effect by using minimal means. The proposal works with the definition of landscape, connecting the area from the centre, through the proposed low-density housing area and into the site, where it ends in a public building connecting the different levels. The building, which is a multi-functional cultural centre supposed to be open until late at night, constitutes the new entrance landmark of Gårdsten. As such, it could however be elaborated further - the architecture and the connections should be more precisely defined, but the proposal does explain why it doesn't answer entirely to the brief. As a credible response to an almost impossible question, this standpoint feels realistic and should constitute a valuable startingpoint in the future discussions about the entrance to Gårdsten.

Runner up:

DM360

An urban plan showing possibilities of how to handle the difficulties of the site and a brilliantly simple traffic solution, redefining the circumstances of the entrance to Gårdsten at the same time as it connects the area in a somewhat self-evident way towards the south. The proposed architecture is austere and a bit 'boxy', but is adapted to the terrain in a small-scale manner, thereby indicating a slightly mediterranean or middle-eastern character. This new cluster of houses signals the entrance to the area, while the medical centre is placed in a subterranean groundfloor platform and is not manifested architecturally. However, the placement of the new buildings raises questions of how to handle the noise from the streets and whether it is possible at all to build housing in this exposed position.

Honorable mentions:

CM707

A proposal with a strong sculptural character and with very elaborated architecture of high quality with potential of becoming a landmark. This is however blurred by the fact that there is no medical centre proposed in this spectacular structure but merely housing. The one-floor rowhouses hanging out from the plateau are nicely solved with a sound-protected patio to the north, but leaving the underside as the first thing you see when entering the area. No connection towards the south is proposed.

WN342

A proposal based on a sort of intuitive approach, a rather self centered composition with apparent artistic and poetic qualities. The plan suggests a vivid procession from the highway, where the medical centre and other public functions are proposed, and up the hill, where the housing is proposed. The project is schematically shown and with very little explanatory texts which makes it a bit diffuse and difficult to fully understand.

Last round proposals:

PM 976

A powerfully presented proposal suggesting a gigantic slab, comprising the medical centre and some commercial facilities, spanning the road as an enormous artificial landscape with the appearance of an amusement park. This radical structure, which in itself demands huge investments, creates many problems, though, both internal and external, and also blocks other possible future traffic solutions.

JP704

A skillfully conceived piece of land-art architecture, suggesting an artificial landscape/building which is difficult to decipher entirely in the drawings. The complexity of the structure is remarkable and the way it relates to the topography is very impressive, but the proposal somehow seems to be a result of flexible soft-ware rather than a thorough analysis of the circumstances of the site.

SW531

Simple and clear, sympathetic distribution of mass, climbing the slope. Weak connections between the different levels and towards the south.

MW311

A beautifully presented proposal working with landscape elements to consolidate the connections towards Gårdsten. A box with the medical centre is dramatically hanging out from the shelf and is thereby announcing Gårdsten, but without physical connection to any other level. The proposed connection over the road towards the south is complicated and unrealistic.

Kristianstad_Viaduktområdet

The situation

Within 10 min walk from the historical town centre, and 5 min walk from the new railway and bus station which is now under discussion, the existing sleepy suburban character of the site probably has a potential to develop into something more urban.

The land is very flat and open to the wind. It is low, with ground water close to the surface. Grass, bushes and nice big trees give character to the outdoor spaces.

In the south the important road Snapphanevägen is raised to cross the railway by a bridge. To the competition site, this forms a strong and very suburban barrier which could have been more questioned by the competitors.

Noise, from the railway and from Snapphanevägen, is a major problem which must be treated with great respect.

The noise levels outdoors and indoors should not only be reduced to formally acceptable, but to really good, comfortable levels.

The exteriors of the existing 3-storey buildings are simple and not without a certain friendly charm, whilst the 9-storey tower blocks are stark, and weakly integrated with the ground and the surrounding townscape. Their part of the site has a key position in the linking of the competition area to the areas south of Snapphanevägen, and to the town centre.

The project

Complementary housing, mainly one- and two-bedroom flats. 150 dwellings are expected, all fully accessible to the disabled. This accessibility should be arranged in a dignified way which shows true empathy and respect for the users. Great emphasis will be placed on the apartments' design and effective use of space.

Other major tasks have been

- ✍ to define a new credible level of urbanity for the future of this part of the town
- ✍ to blend, to weave, the new into the existing
- ✍ to deal with the spatial and acoustic difficulties along the Snapphanevägen in the south, and the railway in the west (where the afternoon sun is; not to mention the sun of the wonderful summer evenings...)

The first prize was given to BA 378 – *Living crossroads* - especially because of the basic and robust qualities of the urban plan, which well integrates the new with the existing. However, the southernmost part of the site, including the existing tower blocks, must be better taken care of in the planning process which is to come.

Runner up was JS 232 – because of its architectural qualities and because of its innovative approach to a traditional housing type. The sections and elevations were found of high quality; the floor plans could however be further developed to be buildable. The urban plan was not found to be convincing

To sum up, the jury recommends that:

1st prize will be the base for the planning and building of the site.

the runner-up proposed building type can be developed and integrated in the planning, preferably in the southern part of the site.

1st prize:

BA378

A very realistic and extremely well elaborated proposal showing a maturely handcrafted plan, in scale and layout adapted to the surrounding context. The project organizes the housing in a manner so that all apartments get good living qualities and a quiet courtyard side according to the demands of the brief. The architecture leaves nothing to the imagination, showing a project which is almost finished, raising questions of flexibility and adaption to different phases of construction. The buildings are organized in an economical manner around staircases in the corners, with partly glazed access balconies, also supplying additional sound protection for the courtyards. The housing types have many basic qualities, but also need to be developed – for the completeness of the whole area, they might adapt more to the character of the existing buildings, and perhaps less to the international trends of today; the number of flats per stairwell may be too many (sense of security; anonymity); the access balconies should be designed to be able to serve as outdoor sitting places (e.g. along the railway, to catch the afternoon sun)The project, which perhaps wasn't the most innovative or architecturally exciting, has nevertheless presented the very best solution for the site – and highly possible to realize!

Runner up:

JS232

A cluster of innovatively designed point-houses, set in a subdivided landscape of freely arranged walls which are defining the spaces on ground level. The proposal is charming and refreshingly free from convention, especially regarding the plans of the apartments, who are however also connected to a lot of practical problems when it comes to noise-protection, economy, etc. But the proposal shows qualities of art – both in its presentation and in its content - tying up opposite feelings: grave and bright, positive and negative.

Last round proposals:**IN123**

A curious and architecturally very beautiful piece of work, creating a large-scale sculptural object, associating to the railway. The problems it creates internally, however, are considerable and the project fails to answer the questions raised by the competition programme.

RE002

An elegant linear structure of two linear, extremely thin slabs placed on either side of an elevated courtyard containing a garage. In this way of organising the buildings it refers to the large-scale housing of the 1960's. The apartments are however of another kind, very thin and transparent and elegantly managing the noise problem. But this thin structure and the fact that there are only two apartments per staircase makes it economically questionable.

JH765

Another beautifully presented proposal of point-houses arranged on platform as to provide a differentiation between semi-private and public spaces. The project however stays with a suburban character (largely due to the modernist-type architecture) which can be questionable regarding the proximity to the city centre.

JA735

An interesting proposal in the sense that it uses water as it's architectural and structural focus - in a town situated under sea level and whose history is so much connected to water. The architecture of the project however fails to convince.