



“Laser Valley – Land of Lights International Ideas Competition”

Jury Report

The competition board received **26** entries from **5** countries.

The aim and vision of the competition were clear: an illustration of the Laser Valley – Land of Lights as a dynamic and open research ecosystem that offers an interesting and efficient environment, and at the same time, preserves the richness of environmental and historic resources of the site. A place for living, for having fun, for learning, a center for science, research, innovation, business and mobility.

The competition board asked for creative and consistent proposals in an attractive architecture and with a rich scenario. So the jury asked it: what are the leading ideas in architecture today? For the local authorities the idea of continuity is important: the promotion and representation of history and culture in a high-tech environment. In line with this, the jury searched for an invigorating and innovative approach and up scaling architecture, a plan with a strong identity using local materials to reach a fine intervention in the environment. In selecting the winners, all submitted proposals were assessed on the seven criteria mentioned in the design brief:

- Ability to articulate creativity with innovative ideas;
- Following the competition aims and design criteria in relation to the urban area;
- Originality and novelty in the use of sustainable concepts;
- Ability to integrate various disciplines in the process;
- Quality of the design;
- Clarity of the presented material;
- Clear communication of key aspects of the approach.

After careful consideration and following the criteria, the jury made a short list of **six** entries. For sure, all designs in the shortlist are outstanding. They intend to be one step ahead of convention and set the tone in today's architecture. But if we're looking for lasting visions we have to catch not only a glimpse of the architecture and urbanism of tomorrow, we also have to recognize local culture. These six projects are:

- Project: Sun Valley
- Project: Co-Existing City
- Project: The Full Spectrum
- Project: Pulse Ring
- Project: No Limits
- Project: Power Grid

Most projects show an appealing architecture that swings with the market. The designs will be appreciated by many architectural magazines. They show new directions in design and architecture. But only a few projects show us how we can move with caution between historical knowledge and today's questions. Especially the winning project is a visionary and strong project. It strived to achieve a finely tuned balance between convention and invention and widens the ongoing debates concerning continuity versus discontinuity.

One can see the winning project as a milestone, connecting high-tech architecture with recognizable forms in today's society. The overall effect of is one of a multidimensional interplay of mass, emptiness and transparency. Themes which are significance today. The quality of the public spaces and the attention for sustainability and energy is strong. The longer one looks at the project, the less clear-cut the dividing lines between these various themes become. The project shows the full range of options that are open to architectural design: it delineates the boundaries of architecture, but also highlights its strengths and its potential impact on social and technological developments. And in doing so it shows us a new way to the twenty-first century.