

COMPETITION
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE CONCEPT
URBAN,
LANDSCAPE AND
ARCHITECTURAL
DESIGN OF THE PARK
ALONG THE
SERBIAN ARMY
BOULEVARD
IN BANJA LUKA

FINAL REPORT OF THE COMPETITION JURY

Banja Luka, 2021.

**The Republika Srpska
City of Banja Luka
Mayor
City Administration
Department of Spatial Planning**

Number: 03-404-87/21

Date: 29 December 2021

Based on the Decision of the investor/contracting authority, the Department of Physical Planning initiated a public procurement procedure and in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines on the organization and conduct of competitions in the field of architecture and spatial planning ("Official Gazette of the City of Banja Luka", No. 6/18) organized the

**INTERNATIONAL OPEN PUBLIC COMPETITION FOR THE CONCEPT LANDSCAPE
URBAN AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN OF THE PARK ALONG THE SERBIAN ARMY
BOULEVARD IN BANJA LUKA**

By Decision of the Mayor of the City of Banja Luka number 12-G-1199/21 of 21 May 2021, the Competition Jury for the development of the concept landscape urban and architectural design of the park along the Serbian Army Boulevard in Banja Luka was appointed as follows:

- 1) Draško Stanivuković, chair
- 2) Adrijana Šešić, B.Arch., deputy chair
- 3) Svjetlana Prole, B.Arch., Member
- 4) Ljiljana Došenović PhD Landscape Arch., member
- 5) Nevena Predojević, PhD Arch., member
- 6) Marko Dabrović, B.Arch., member
- 7) Dejan Skočajić, PhD, B.Landscape Arch., member

Alternate members

- 1) Igor Kuvač, PhD Arch.
- 2) Boriša Mandić, B. Arch.

Expert rapporteurs:

- 1) Ljiljana Zvonar, B.Arch.
- 2) Valentina Savić Mandić, B.Arch.
- (3) Rajko Rađević, B.Arch.

Technical assistance:

- (1) Maja Smiljanić, BLL

In accordance with Article 45 of the Guidelines on the organization and conduct of the competitions in the field of architecture and spatial planning ("Official Gazette of the City of Banja Luka", No. 6/18), the Competition Jury has made the:

Final Report

On the proposals submitted to the International General Public Competition for the development of the concept for landscape urban and architectural design of the park along the Serbian Army Boulevard in Banja Luka

In order to prepare the competition, the Competition Jury held the first working session on 27 May 2021, and agreed upon basic elements of the competition announcement, and together with the Contracting Authority, developed the competition program and the requirements.

After harmonization of all elements, the Competition Jury verified the Competition Program and Requirements at the second working session held on 27 August 2021.

The competition notification was announced on 1 October 2021 on the website of the Public Procurement Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the daily newspaper "Nezavisne novine", on the official website of the City of Banja Luka and in the "Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina" number 62/21 of 8 October 2021.

The competition was also announced on the following websites:

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| 1. https://www.archdaily.com/ | |
| 2. https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/ | |
| 3. http://competitions.archi/publish/ | |
| 4. http://www.marh.mk/ | Union of Architects of Macedonia |
| 5. http://www.sacg.me/ | Union of Architects of Montenegro |
| 6. https://uha.hr/ | Association of the Croatian Architects |
| 7. http://www.d-a-z.hr/ | Society of the Zagreb Architects |
| 8. https://www.zaps.si/index.php | Association of Architects from Slovenia |
| 9. https://www.dab.rs , https://www.u-a-s.rs | Association of Architects of Serbia |
| 10. https://www.dan.org.rs | Society of the Niš Architects |
| 11. https://dans.org.rs | Society of the Novi Sad Architects |
| 12. http://www.drustvo-dal.si/ | Society of Architects of Ljubljana |
| 13. https://www.zaps.si/ | Union of Architects of Slovenia |
| 14. http://www.en.dab.rs/ | Society of the Belgrade Architects |
| 15. https://aabh.ba/ | Association of Architects in the BH |

Three awards were foreseen for the participants of the competition in the following amounts:

- First prize 15,000.00 EUR (the equivalent in BAM)
- Second prize 7,500.00 EUR (the equivalent in BAM) and
- Third prize 3,750.00 EUR (the equivalent in BAM)

The competition was open until 5 December 2021 at 23:59 (GMT + 1).

Within the stipulated deadline, as defined by the Announcer, and in accordance with the Guidelines on the organization and conduct of the competitions in the field of architecture and spatial planning, a total of 95 (ninety-five) questions were submitted by the interested persons and each was specifically and duly answered by the Competition Jury.

The third working session of the Competition Jury was held on 6 December 2021, during which the Deputy Chairman informed the members that, in accordance with the call for General Public

Competition for the development of the Concept landscape urban and architectural design for the park along the Serbian Army Boulevard in Banja Luka, the Contracting Authority received a total of 31 (thirty-one) digital competition proposals by the stipulated deadline on the link www.banjaluka.rs.ba/konkurs-park-bl (en.banjaluka.rs.ba/competition-park-bl), under the following author's codes:

„87535AE“, „MTHNF21“, „88866LL“, „00331OS“, „78000BL“, „DY86888“, „HX00062“, „16161LA“, „00079AK“, „31572ER“, „31100ES“, „39080PU“, „77777MK“, „11337AZ“, „DT14025“, „IDDQD42“, „08098AG“, „15101FP“, 19 „Ta10198“, „OO10110“, „XY06951“, „70391LK“, „DS66577“, „NE25843“, „20201GR“, „22022KN“, „00000PA“, „81228yn“, „LE85693“, „61119MS“ and „01010LB“.

Proposals that were submitted properly and on time, were open and marked by assigning an ordinal numbers, based on the order of arrival. The number of the received attachments was checked for each proposal.

The expert rapporteurs reviewed the received proposals in the period from 6 December 2021 until 16 December 2021.

At the fourth working session held on 17 December 2021, a written report made by the expert rapporteurs was submitted to the Competition Jury and each proposal was orally explained (attachment: Report on the submitted proposals for the international general public competition for the development of the concept landscape urban and architectural design of the park along the Serbian Army Boulevard in Banja Luka - December 2021).

At the same meeting, the Competition Jury reviewed all 31 competition proposals and analyzed them individually against the established criteria and requirements defined by the Competition Announcement and the Program, and decided as follows:

1. Competition proposals under the following author's code are eligible for participation:
01 („87535AE“), 03 („88866LL“), 05 („78000BL“), 06 („DY86888“), 07 („HX00062“), 08 („16161LA“), 09 („00079AK“), 10 („31572ER“), 11 („31100ES“), 12 („39080PU“), 13 („77777MK“), 14 („11337AZ“), 15 („DT14025“), 16 („IDDQD42“), 17 („08098AG“), 19 („Ta10198“), 20 („OO10110“), 21 („XY06951“), 22 („70391LK“), 23 („DS66577“), 24 („NE25843“), 25 („20201GR“), 27 („00000PA“), 29 („LE85693“), 30 („61119MS“) and 31 („01010LB“);
2. There are no attachments in the received competition proposals that should be excluded from the evaluation process;
3. Due to the failure to meet obligatory requirements of the Competition Announcement, competition proposals under the following working numbers are ineligible for further evaluation:
 - 02 („MTHNF21“) - The proposal does not contain all the attachments defined by the Competition Announcement, and a number of attachments are not finalized, hence it is evident that the proposal is not complete;
 - 04 („00331OS“) - The proposal does not contain all the attachments defined by the Competition Announcement, and a number of attachments are not finalized, hence it is evident that the proposal is not complete;

- 18 („15101FP“) - The author violated the principle of anonymity, as the author's name is indicated on a number of graphic attachments;
- 26 („22022KN“) - The proposal does not contain all the attachments defined by the Competition Announcement, a number of attachments are not finalized, and the author violated the principle of anonymity, as the author's name is indicated on one graphic attachment.
- 28 („81228yn“) - The proposal does not contain all the attachments defined by the competition announcement, hence it is incomplete and not finalized.

At the fifth working session, which was held on 21 December 2021, the Competition Jury continued the examination of 26 competitive proposals that after the first round of elimination acquired the right to participate in the second round of evaluation.

The Competition Jury examined and evaluated each proposal against the determined criteria and agreed to eliminate 15 competition proposals in the second round for failing to meet the required program conditions under the following author's codes:

(author's code „87535AE“), 05 (author's code „78000BL“), 06 (author's code „DY86888“), 07 (author's code „HX00062“), 08 (author's code „16161LA“), 09 (author's code „00079AK“), 12 (author's code „39080PU“), 13 (author's code „77777MK“), 17 (author's code „08098AG“), 19 (author's code „LE85693“), 30 (author's code „61119MS“), 31 (author's code „01010LB“).

The remaining 11 proposals were considered in the third round of the comparative evaluation of the quality of the offered designs based on the specific characteristics of the concepts;

After a detailed review of each proposal and comparison of the competition designs during further consideration and evaluation in the third round of evaluation, the Jury eliminated five more competition proposals that offered lower quality designs under the following working numbers: 03 (author's code „88866LL“), 10 (author's code „31572ER“), 15 (author's code „DT14025“), 16 (author's code „IDDQD42“) and 25 (author's code „20201GR“).

The remaining six competition proposals under the working numbers: 11 (author's code „31100ES“), 14 (author's code „11337AZ“), 20 (author's code „OO10110“), 22 (author's code „70391LK“), 23 (author's code „DS66577“) and 27 (author's code „00000PA“) entered the fourth (shortlist) round of evaluation.

At the 7th working session held on 29 December 2021, in the fourth round of evaluation, the remaining six competition proposals were evaluated, and based on the evaluation of the offered solutions, the Competition Jury selected the competition proposals under the following working numbers: 4 (author's code „11337AZ“), 20 (author's code „OO10110“), 22 (author's code „70391LK“) and 27 (author's code „00000PA“), whereas proposals under the working numbers 11 (author's code „31100ES“) and 23 (author's code „DS66577“) were left for the evaluation for HONORABLE MENTION as a kind of recognition of the contribution made in architectural design.

After evaluating and scoring the competition proposals from the shortlist, and ranking the proposals based on the quality of the offered designs, the Competition Jury, at its seventh working session held on 29 December 2021, acknowledging the purpose of the competition, unanimously decided

not to award the first prize since no concept design has provided a unique quality and integrity, in terms of functionality, sustainability, rational implementation and future use and maintenance, as well as in terms of design, materials and program content.

The reasons why the first prize could not be awarded are as follows:

- The scope of the program task conditioned the unequal level of the proposed elements of space, particularly the elements related to the dendrology fund and individual ambiances in the competition proposals. The task that was the subject of the competition, indicated that it should be a sequence of several separate spatial units united into one space. In addition, the diversity of the subject environments in terms of content, purpose, current situation and, in particular, the indicated perspective of development and potential, motivated the authors to dedicate to their designs at different levels and from different aspects.
- By recognizing the described necessary diversity, the relationship between the current status and the desired future development, the program task placed the public space in a direct - indirect relationship. Solving the relationship between movement and content, organizing different zones of the park and the layout were direct spatial planning-design topics, while proposing a landscape layout of species is an indirect way of influencing the result in the space.
- The task was multi-thematic, and consequently the result of this competition includes different levels of adequate solutions in terms of solving certain environments, rather than defining the subject scope as a single move.
- The proposed solutions did not pay attention to the feasibility and maintenance aspects. The concept of space exploitation, the logic of its use, movement, sense of keeping users in the space are the main topics of all the submitted proposals, while the position of the entrance, construction aspect, maintenance requirements, and use of the site parameters are neglected in all the submitted proposals.

On the other hand, the Jury found that a number of proposals had particularly good solutions for certain environments, parts of environments or parts of the whole scope of the task, as well as solid concepts, principles, attitudes, thematic approach and character of design, which provide a wide range of potential for improving the future development of the new park in Banja Luka. In addition, a number of proposals have contributed to a broader reflection on some of the topics that have emerged in this competition, and which deserve some recognition.

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 41 and 67 of the Guidelines on the organization and conduct of competitions in the field of architecture and spatial planning ("Official Gazette of the City of Banja Luka, No. 6/18) and item 6 of the Competition Announcement, the Jury decided to use the opportunity and redistribute the number and order of the awards within the total prize fund, in such a way as not to award the first prize, but two equal second prizes in the amount of EUR 7,500.00 each (equivalent in BAM) and two equal third prizes in the amount of EUR 3,750.00 each (equivalent in BAM),

The Jury decided to award two competition proposals with non-monetary HONORABLE MENTION, for having achieved a certain artistic value and representativeness with their ideas and concept designs.

Accordingly, the Competition Jury decided that the following proposals submitted to the Competition, are to be awarded as follows:

PROPOSAL NUMBER 20, author's code „OO10110“ – SECOND PRIZE in the amount of 7,500.00 EUR

The competition design of the park complex is based on 5 design principles:

- 01 - adapt and respect nature;
- 02 - a concept based on the existing characteristics of the site;
- 03 – clear gesture – one large family of contents;
- 04 – interactive landscape, and
- 05 – achieve a symbolic point of development.



The analysis of the site landscape has identified natural characteristics based on which, certain positions of functional units were defined, as well as the layout of the organizational structure of the park. The main functional units are: outdoor amphitheater (small and large), event square, reserve, noise protection (sliding hill, extreme sports hill), sports facilities (cycling and jogging lanes, sports fields, skate park), educational spaces, playgrounds for children, area

by the river (restaurant and cafe, beach, water sports), lookout, dog park, and interactive water surfaces. All units are connected by amorphous forms of lanes that are adapted to the morphology of the terrain and the functional requirements of the zones. The entire observed park solution was given the epithet of the park of the future, which aims to meet the needs of today, as well as future generations.

Use of modern parametric tools generated the disposition of the program in relation to the natural characteristics of the site. Although the concept design conducts a detailed analysis of the existing spatial logic, characteristics of the environment, the way the environment directly affects the complex, the determinants of the wider environment to which the future creative park should be directed, it unnecessarily introduces large paved areas in the coastal zone, and forms significant green area in the western zone of the park, which in the final solution does not provide an adequate solution to the problem of already registered "thermal" islands in the immediate vicinity, which are the result of excessive construction. The authors did not present the dynamics of the park development through potential phases. The presentation of the dendrology structure is missing, as well as the catalogue of plants with a detailed presentation of the planned plant stock. Also, the proposed design did not include parking space for motor vehicles.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 22, author's code „70391LK“ – SECOND PRIZE in the amount of 7,500.00 EUR

The proposed design emphasizes the development of the landscape, and morphologically divides the space into two levels (two zones) that are positioned in the north-south direction. The existing denser natural landscape, which is at a lower level, also represents a clean space, while the designed one is at a higher level. The concept design compliments and values the existing green, providing a strong main communication route, ie the central axis that connects other elements with the site. The central axis extends in a west-east direction, and represents a clear boundary between the two zones

- natural and artificial. Opening green areas and improving routes through the existing landscape strengthen the spatial connections. Plants create a landscape structure, which defines spaces and serves the desired function. The planted areas dominate the visual profile of the site and provide a spatial structure.



Construction of a multifunctional facility is planned in the central zone of the park area with two large circular water surfaces. The contents offered in the competition proposal are: entrance zone, playground, small fields, rest zone, dog park, skate park, open fields for recreation, outdoor amphitheater, education activities, botanical garden with pavilion, "holes", etc. Also, the use of the park through the seasons in relation to the offered facilities was reviewed, so that a

number of facilities can be used throughout the year, while others are limited by the season, such as skating ring. The park opens the coastal forest to the public, while preserving unique ecological qualities such as wetland habitats intersected throughout the landscape. This is achieved by making several additions to the landscape, e.g. wooden paths are used to access the forest and platforms that provide a view of the river Vrbas. The proposal did not consider solving motor stationary traffic, but it defines the phases of implementation, as well as the layout of the plant fund.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 14, author's code „11337AZ“ – THIRD PRIZE in the amount of 3,750.00 EUR

The concept design is based on the idea of creating a park space that is a scaled-down copy of the natural environment of Banja Luka reflected in the Dinaric mountain ranges, rivers and canyons, as well as plain areas that through various separate active units form a unique structure developing westward to the east, from urban city structures to the natural structures of the banks of the river Vrbas. The aim of the idea of the park structure, is to preserve the autochthonous character of the space, while respecting the needs of users and the existing plant fund.



The basic idea in defining the movement of pedestrians is conceived without restrictions, which means minimal intervention in the ground floor, whereas bicycle traffic and spaces for the movement of people with disabilities are defined by separate paths. Motor traffic is conditionally prohibited except for urgent needs or supplies. Zones such as: dog park, "skate"

park, basketball courts, catering and shopping facilities, multipurpose research space, open-air theater, open-air cinema, river bank area for rest and recreation with water sports, multi-purpose open field, and children's playgrounds are defined within the park complex. The central route for pedestrian movement is in the west-east direction with a fragmented network of cross routes that connect other parts of the park from the primary path to secondary routes, while bicycle traffic is planned for edge of the park. Dendrology structure is shown in specific zones, and a more detailed

presentation of the planned plant fund is given in the catalogue of plants. Urban furniture is given in the catalogue. The proposal did not contend with the processing of the final layers of the ground floor arrangement, the height differences in the ground floor are not shown, nor the phase implementation.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 27, author's code „00000PA“ - THIRD PRIZE in the amount of 3,750.00 EUR

The design concept of the park is inspired by the rivers Vrbas, Vrbanja and the phenomena that the author connects to the river: course, whirlpool, wave, meander, delta. The directions of communication are formed in such a way as to enable a smooth connection between the units outside and inside the park. The goal of the author of this competition proposal is to visually and functionally integrate the park into a wider context, to endorse further development of the city and become a landmark that attracts both residents of Banja Luka and tourists. The park is designed as a modern multifunctional space for recreation, culture, entertainment and learning. It was designed for various activities and interaction given the contents, but in an unpretentious way that will evoke a feeling of freedom in the contact with nature.

The entrance plateau from the roundabout on the Boulevard of the Serbian Army "draws" visitors to the park, and it is followed by the main path that forms "meanders" with the functional and content units of the park. Near the Vrbas river bank, the lane widens, forming a "delta" that continues with a bridge over the river connecting settlements on the right bank. Ancillary communications, such as whirlpools, emphasize the content of the park and draw visitors. The bicycle paths are connected to the existing path in the Boulevard and enable the movement of cyclists towards all important points outside



the park zone. The entire surface of the "wave" also forms vertical "gaps" with buildings that have a green roof and that emerge from the terrain like waves. In a number of spots, the terrain has been raised only enough to enable the formation of park elements (sitting walls, fountains, etc.). Some of the buildings have a clearly defined purpose, such as restaurants and cafes, and some spaces are multipurpose, so they can, if necessary, become galleries, concert spaces, art workshops, music and dancing schools, etc. The planning of greenery in the park is defined in two directions. The first dominant direction is the formation of a natural and somewhat "wild" environment on the site with forests and groups of shrubs. The other includes greenery around the buildings and at the very entrance to the park, which has been given a "more urban" stamp. The proposal envisages a large percentage of the park's occupancy with the built facilities, and does not follow the acquired elements nor does it provide a phased implementation of the design.

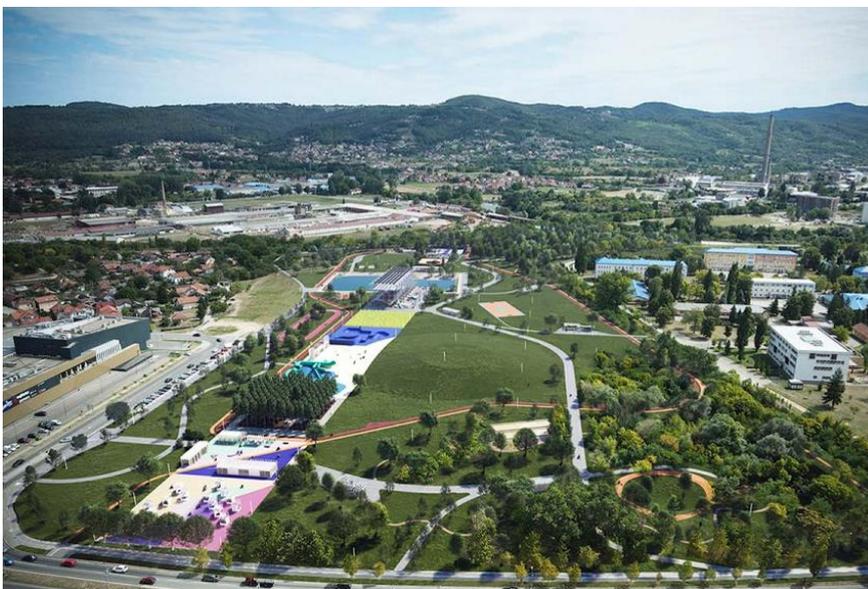
PROPOSAL NUMBER 11, author's code „31100ES“ – NON-MONETARY HONORABLE MENTION



The offered solution fully corresponds to the current situation on the ground, well recognizing the real social and political, cultural and even economic context of the city of Banja Luka. It is therefore unobtrusive, proportionate to the size and character of the city and realistically feasible in the foreseeable planning horizon.

It stands out especially for its humane approach, because it starts from small fragmented ambient units, which harmoniously permeate the space, building it gradually from the bottom up in the direct connection of many different functions. It relies on the concept of a green city, and views the park area as an integral part of the city's green matrix with which it integrates naturally. The solution stands out according to the free open form in which a large green park area becomes a polygon for various dispersed activities, connected by the green structure and the main directions of communication, according to which the functions are oriented.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 23, author's code „DS66577“ – NON-MONETARY HONORABLE MENTION



This proposal brings a bold and commendable contemporary approach to the park theme, which is based on fluid and informal planning methods that are not predetermined and allow great flexibility within a clearly defined concept. And this concept, based on the classic theoretical approaches of the twentieth century, represents a futuristic vision of space for a new generation of users, who will actually be the only ones able to properly enjoy the space planned presently.

Slightly generic, but unequivocally clear and precise, this proposal is reduced to five landscape elements, ie three clearly differentiated spatial layers (1) the predominant green structure that dominates the area of the park in its natural formation; (2) a network of different curvilinear communications that connect all spatial points, and finally (3) a straight line in the West-East direction, which in one strong stroke, unites most of the necessary functions, thus leaving the largest percentage of the green structure free. This proposal stands out for its bold approach, perception and

harmonious combination of innovative and classic approaches, which still goes beyond the context of a small environment.