

E15 JURY STATEMENT

RUNNER - UP

WEIZ ARCHIPELAGO

XF149

Local Commission: The term "Citty Diffusa" (urban sprawl) refers to urban sprawl as a typology of a heterogeneous texture. The project uses the term to describe the existing urban structure in an 'Atlas of Islands'. The resulting topics define the development area. The acceptance of urban sprawl and the strategic approach to it are regarded with great interest. Big typologies where public life can take place are conceivable but not clearly enough defined.

Densification, identity and reduction of existing sealed surfaces are important aspects of the project. Spatially, two linear elements - road and creek - create a viable backbone. The formation of a generous, green ribbon along this spine is seen as promising. The green infrastructure generally appears to be a very solid framework and is interpreted as a 'Handlungsanweisung'. It's not just about soil permeability, but also about the creation of a natural landscape with areas that can change over the year and hence can differ in their usage. Ambivalently seen is the division of Weizbaches in the South, thereby creating a humid zone that would greatly increase the biodiversity.

A weak point is the formulation of the road, which is dealt with very pragmatically and could thus seduce to drive fast.

The permeability is not the only question but also the creation of a natural landscape with zones which can adapt throughout the year and therefore lead to different uses. The separating of the Weizbach in the south is an uncertain aspect, although the formation of a new wet-dry zone would distinctly increase biodiversity.

The treatment of the street is a weak point as the pragmatic approach could lead to drivers speeding up.

Scenarios for future densification are proposed, amongst others, on the roofs of existing businesses/commercial buildings. Taking up this fundamentally important topic is received positively. However, the idea of agriculture and bionics in the context of Weiz is doubtful. The project is seen as strategically interesting, sustainable and affordable.

International Jury: The jury appreciates unanimously the analysis of the existing heterogeneous urban fabric through the atlas of islands. The project is understood as an urban planning proposal on a long-term scale, with a broader focus. Archipelago's strength is its dealing with nature and the southern part of the project area. There, the emphasis on the flooding issue especially becomes apparent and is formulated as an integral part of the project, which convinces the jury. Apart from that, it is considered not specific enough and dependent on a governance with long-term continuity.

The expanded dealing with the site is seen twofold: The jury argues that an overall planning approach for the city of Weiz is essential and Archipelago highlights relevant issues. However, it is clearly a project which is less easy to embark upon.

By widening up the area, the theme of the street seems neglected, which is viewed highly critically. Archipelago doesn't offer any substantial transformation to that street in the sense of its profile, form and use; it keeps its character and stays very much the same.

The jury questions the focus of the proposal, which is identified as an urban strategy. Being acknowledged as such, it is viewed as being the wrong priority, since the short-term and actual questions posed by the city are inappropriately answered.