

E15 JURY STATEMENT

SHORTLISTED
WEAVING WEIZ
ZY492

Local commission: The project proposes a network binding together water, nature, energy and people with the aim of sustainability. The method lies in “neighbourhood planning” which connects living and working without the use of a car. The functional mix determines a walking distance radius of no more than 5 to 10 minutes for all the necessary infrastructure required in daily life. This approach is considered backwards and poses the question, how did we once live and how do we want to live now? The suggested small divisions in Weiz are unnecessary because it is already possible for example to cycle easily anywhere in a short space of time.

A complex green belt is stands for the resettlement and upkeep of the regional plants and animals. The street is defined as the backbone that conducts green energy through the city. Here is where the jury sees the strength of the project; the representation of the landscape on a large scale and the inclusion of the topography. The treatment of the street is viable for the future and offers a real solution. The connection to the green spaces, the flowing water and the street has also been handled well. The detailed cross-section is interesting because the conceptual approach is clearly shown. Weaknesses are seen in the orientation of leisure space in proximity to loud spaces as well as in the two differing riverbanks (soft and hard). It is obvious that there must be a certain boundary for nature to flourish and to be protected but hard riverbanks can also be attractive.

The local jurors point out that a similar situation can already be found on the Weizbach. A project that tries to get to the heart of the matter with simple means is very valuable. It is not always necessary to make drastic changes as long as you have the right priorities.

International Jury: The project tries to formulate an overall idea including nature. This is predominantly shown in a detailed section, which the jury acclaims positively. The proposed hard banks are regarded as a sensible approach with the aim of protecting the natural areas along the stream, but the plan lacks coherence as the western side of the stream remains completely accessible thus rendering the hard banks partially irrelevant. The handling of the proposed leisure zone along the street, which is facing the noise, is viewed critically and not deemed suitable.

The programming of productivity is diffuse but seems to be in line with the prevalent theme (farming, timber yards, solar and wind energy). To then also base the urban strategy on a five-minute circle of mobility is not understood and is regarded as inappropriate for such a small town as Weiz, where everything is close at hand anyway.