

E15 JURY STATEMENT

SHORTLISTED
ENSEMBLE CITY
ZZ975

Local commission: The theme of this project is a consistently dense, three-dimensional system to enable the creation of spaces and their special purposes. The development of zoning without urban markers such as the front end and the back end is envisaged. In the plinth, a flexible structure is proposed, which should allow a great deal of openness. The plinth forms a plateau, the “creative garden”, by incorporating the structure above which is composed of residential and office spaces. Using a “green blanket” to wrap them up makes the apartments and offices more appealing.

The various spaces and configurations meet the requirements of a productive city to an extraordinarily great extent. The project has a confident attitude and is perceived as very coherent. The quality of space above the plinth is unpretentious, practical and offers great flexibility for the occupants, although unfortunately not for the surroundings. The end result is likely to be far denser than imagined.

The plinth is adaptable and can therefore correspond with the surrounding environment and respond to different requirements. The vertical layering however makes the base prone to repurposing for residential use. The project enables a phased development that is well suited for prioritisation. A precise solution for production is lacking but is possible and would be dependent on the use of the ground floor. The project works well as a commercial zone and offers additional useful proposals for the district.

International jury: The project is appreciated by the jury because of its porosity and its flexibility on the ground floor level. The overall sense of scale is more defined and deemed reasonable. Yet, the proposed program on ground floor is seen as totally unsuitable in the context of production.

In this project the two worlds of housing & production appear even more separate due to the integration of the garden level and the green ‘top’. However, it is understood that co-working spaces are a possible option to penetrate the garden level. Differing opinions amongst the jury lead to questioning whether it is justifiable on this site to work with superimposition giving up the mixing of uses due to noise. It is however obvious, that this approach is problematic and doesn’t exploit the potential of the calmer street towards the social housing block.

With its grid structure and stratified distribution, the proposal is perceived as quite unambitious and doesn’t bring any new topics to the table, although the careful execution of the proposed concept is appreciated.