

Budapest South Gate Masterplan – FCBStudios entry Judges' Comments

The Jury considered this to be a very accomplished project which was thoughtful, intelligent, and comprehensive. The concept of creating a 'new genetic code' for Budapest was ambitious, and the project presentation was clearly organised to support this idea. The project made a coherent infrastructural proposal with intelligent connections to both the north and south sectors, and in terms of urban design, connected the western/recreational area to the residential sector in a very convincing manner.

The site organisation and routes through the site have been developed as an overall proposal, uniting all areas of the land available for development; few other schemes were as successful in doing this. The Jury were also impressed by the concept of fast and slow routes through the site, and the quality this would bring to living on the site. At more local levels, the organisation within the built-up area is very clear, with good provision of open space and sensible integration with the main N-S highway at the right edge of the site.

The central pedestrian-bicycle-tramway axis leading through the median of the Student City is a clear strength. It also provides a very nice solution to the connection between the Danubius Hub and the Athletics Stadium. The entry makes a proposal to connect the Danubius Hub, the Wholesale Market Site and the park in Csepel with an iconic pedestrian bridge, however, instead of ending in a junction, the axis leads against a tower building on the edge. All in all the solutions of the transportation system are realistic, can be scheduled well, they are well-considered, and they are among the best proposals.

The station proposal is strong formally, and develops the station as a positive element in the civic domain; this is one of the best-resolved proposals for the multi-mode transport link among the submissions. At any entirely different scale, the new walkways in the forested areas to the west are interesting, and provide a strong architectural contrast to the more ordered urban forms elsewhere.

In terms of a new ecology for the site, the principle of 'giving landscape the lead role' was much appreciated by the Jury. The emphasis given to on-site cultivation brings the production of food back to the city, and the offer of generous number of allotments and a farmers' market was evidence of a real and very practical concern for site sustainability and productive capacity beyond the simple provision of green civic space. Similarly, in terms of the forests to the west, the landscape was allowed to breathe and make a real counterpoint to the urban blocks.

Finally, in terms of phasing, the project was coherent and, like all aspects of its design, thoughtful. The careful zoning of the scheme lent itself to a well-structured construction process

To this entry the Evaluation Jury gives the second place.