

# Babyn Yar – Dorohozhychi Necropolis

COMPETITION BRIEF

Open International Architectural Ideas Competition for a Holistic Structuring and Integration of a Historical and Memorial Area in Kyiv, Ukraine Babyn Yar – Dorohozhychi Necropolis Open International Architectural Ideas Competition for a Holistic Structuring and Integration of a Historical and Memorial Area in Kyiv, Ukraine

#### **CONTENTS:**

Α.	Program		
	A.1.	Introduction	
	A.2.	Competition Objective	
	A.3.	Competition Scope	
	A.4.	Competition Guidelines	
	A.5.	Competition Format	
	A.6.	Competition Promoter	
	A.7.	Conditions for Registration	
	A.8.	Jury Panel and Evaluation Process	
	A.9.	Disqualification	
	A.10.	Obtaining Competition Documentation	
	A.11.	Technical Requirements for Submitting Entry Materials	
	A.12.	Technical Requirements for Submitting Exhibition Materials	
	A.13.	Insurance for Exhibition Materials	
	A.14.	Copyright and Ownership of Competition Projects	
	A.15.	Prizes	
	A.16.	Publicizing Competition Projects	
	A.17.	Competition Timeline	

## B. History

- B.1. Pre-World War II Period
- B.2. Nazi Occupation of Kyiv during World War II

B.2.1. Mass execution of Jews in the fall of 1941

B.2.2. Two years of occupation

- B.3. Postwar Soviet Era
- B.4. Recent Times

# C. Site Analysis

- C.1. Transportation and Accessibility
- C.2. Topography and Soil
- C.3. Climate
- C.4. Vegetation

## D. Appendices

#### A. PROGRAM

#### A.1. Introduction

Babyn Yar is a complex historical symbol. For centuries Babyn Yar was a multi-ethnic and multi-faith necropolis linked to the history of Kyiv. It became part of world history in the fall of 1941, when nearly 34,000 Kyivan Jews were murdered over two days in one of the largest single Nazi massacres during World War II. They were massacred for the sole reason that that they were Jews, whom the Nazi ideology designated to be chief enemies of the so-called "superior Aryan race". This became a part of Nazi Germany' ambition to destroy all Jews throughout the world, a unique atrocity in human history. Babyn Yar thus became a symbol of the Holocaust, a symbol, in particular, of what in recent years has come to be called the "Holocaust by Bullets"—the mass shootings of Jews on the occupied territories of the then Soviet Union, as distinct from the better known gas chambers in Auschwitz and other death camps. Non-Jews were also murdered or buried at Babyn Yar during the war. In the two years of German occupation up to November 1943, this site was used as a place of execution or burial of persons and entire groups who were also considered to be enemies of the Nazis. Estimates point to at least 100,000 victims, the vast majority (over two-thirds) of whom were Jews.

Subsequently, the Soviet regime tried for decades to destroy the ravine (Yar) itself, as well as the national and ethnic identity of its victims, as evidenced in the 1976 massive Soviet bronze monument dedicated to "Over One Hundred Thousand Citizens of the City of Kyiv and Prisoners of War" killed in 1941-1943 "by German-Fascist Invaders." By that time, Babyn Yar also became the scene of the Kurenivka disaster—a tragic mudslide that happened in 1961 and claimed 145 lives according to just official sources, but more likely 1,500 lives according to later estimates by historians.

After Ukrainian independence in 1991, a bronze sculpture in the shape of a menorah was erected to mark the specifically Jewish tragedy at Babyn Yar. This was followed by a wooden cross to commemorate "621 activists of the anti-Nazi underground from the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists" shot by the Germans, and by twenty-seven additional commemorative signs dedicated to different groups and specific individuals massacred or buried in Babyn Yar. As a result of the uncoordinated proliferation of competing monuments and the overall physical neglect of the site, Babyn Yar turned into a chaotic space that does not properly reflect the meaning and significance of the tragic events that transpired here.

The principal goal for the organizers (and thus also for the future entrants of the competition) is to create a comprehensive memory site—the "Babyn Yar—Dorohozhychi Necropolis"

memorial park. The objective is to transform what is now a littered woodland park / recreational park into a site conducive to reflection and respect for the victims that lie here. At the same time, this area must remain open to memorialization efforts down the road as a consequence of dialogue and as a result of the cooperation of different communities and parts of the society.

#### A.2. Competition Objective

The competition client has a motivation to see the projects arising from the competition materialize. However, the client is not the owner of the territory and is not legally entitled to implement the projects independently. Therefore, the only course of action is to deploy consistent efforts aimed at persuading the landowners and authorized land users, as well other stakeholders and the wider public, of the necessity of having this project realized. The competition is envisioned as a first step in that direction.

Today, Babyn Yar is chiefly a place for regular recreation, not always of the cultured kind, for the residents of the surrounding districts of Kyiv. At the same time, Babyn Yar is a site of pilgrimage by Ukrainian Jews, representatives of the Jewish diaspora, and other international visitors who come to pay respect to the victims of the Holocaust. It is also a place of remembrance for all citizens of Ukraine and Kyivans, who recall the crimes of the Jewish Shoah as well as other horrors of the Nazi occupation and Soviet totalitarian rule.

Thus, the aim of the competition should be to create a clearly marked out space, in which both those who are coming with the explicit goal of honoring the memory of the dead and regular local residents or students of the nearby colleges and universities would at once feel the connection of this place to the tragic history of the Holocaust and other tragedies that had happened here.

In the humanitarian context, therefore, the competition objective is to create a space of reflection and acknowledgement of the extreme inhumanity and tragic events that occurred at this site in the past, and to unite contemporary citizens of Ukraine of all ethnic backgrounds in the spirit of mutual empathy for past sufferings, affirmation of the value of every individual human life, and aspirations for a just and humane society.

In the context of memorial architecture, the competition objective is to present to the public, governmental institutions, and the professional community ideas for creating a comprehensive memorial space as an alternative to chaotic installation of separate monuments.

In the spatial context, the competition objective is to create a modern holistic public memorial space which is integrated with the city structure through the means of landscape design.

In the educational context, the competition objective is to employ landscape design to create a space capable of conveying to visitors (including those who have no connection to this place either through personal or through familial memory) the value of remembrance, as well as ideas of humanism, tolerance, democracy, civil society, human-rights defense, and natural and spiritual ecology—in effect, life-affirming responses to the evils of the Holocaust and other tragedies that occurred on this space.

In the social context, the competition objective is to present to the public a model of quality holistic structuring and integration of an urban recreational area that is a historical-memorial site of global significance.

## A.3. Competition Scope

The scope of the competition is the territory which historically included:

- Babyn Yar—the site of the mass murder and burials of Kyiv's Jews and other killings during the German occupation of Kyiv;
- the surrounding area, including the historical multi-faith necropolis that had been in formation over many centuries and included Christian Orthodox, a Jewish, a Karaite, a Muslim, military as well as other cemeteries, as well as the area of the 1961 Kurenivka disaster.

The competition site today includes the territories:

- National Historical-Memorial Reserve "Babyn Yar";
- Lukianivsky State Historical-Memorial Reserve (a full cemetery which is only open for burials in existing family vaults);
- "Kyrylivs`ky Gai" park that is a registered landmark of landscaping and gardening art;
- Shevchenkivskyi district park "Babyn Yar";
- "Repyakhiv Yar" protected nature reserve;
- Metro (subway) station "Dorohozhychi";
- Kyiv television tower;
- the television center;

- "Avanguard" sports complex;
- a dump yard for disused buses;
- gas (petrol) station "Motto";
- a building belonging to the municipal landscaping company "Kyivzelenbud";
- "Hertsen Park" residential complex (under construction);
- office buildings complex of the State Archive of the Kyiv Region;
- office buildings complex of the regional State Labor Inspection;
- Military cemetery;

## A.4. Competition Guidelines

Competition participants must take into account the following principles:

- the site must remain a public space, accessible to individuals with disabilities;
- participants should avoid gigantomania;
- participants should comply with the current land zoning regulations of both historicalmemorial reserves and the territory of protected areas of the historical-memorial reserve "Babyn Yar" and the landmark of national significance "Kyrylivska Church";
- all the existing objects of cultural heritage as well as memorial objects and other buildings/structures must be preserved; entries should also take into account the repurposing of buildings which will be handed over to the National Historical-memorial Reserve "Babyn Yar" (the former office of the management of the Jewish cemetery will become the Memorial Museum for Commemoration of Victims of the Babyn Yar tragedy; the gardener's house will become the office of security and technical personnel of the Historical-memorial Reserve "Babyn Yar");
- competition participants should provide proposals for creating a space with the possibility of development over time, where new monuments might be erected in the future;
- participants should provide proposals for the guidelines of territorial development, including parameters for possible new monuments and location(s) where they could be installed, with the view toward rational use of land and compositional unity with the surroundings;

- the existing natural landscape must be preserved to the greatest possible extent and presented in the context set forth by the competition brief;
- participants should provide proposals for the memorialization of space outside the competition site (e. g., the path which Jews took to their deaths on September 29, 1941; monuments; former Zenit stadium (currently Start stadium); former garages of a tank repair shop; part of the execution zone in Babyn Yar; the territory of the former Syrets concentration camp with its burial sites; the cemetery of German prisoners-of-war, former streetcar maintenance depot named after Krasin (currently, the Podil streetcar depot) as parts of a joint memorial space;
- entries should provide for methods of navigation around the competition site and the memorial space outside them in the form of information boards.

It is recommended that design projects:

- do not call for construction of new buildings and large structures;
- do not include new monuments of their own;
- minimize the use of new national, religious or political symbols;
- do not include fences or separated areas on the territory under design;
- provide proposals for a pedestrian walkway system on the territory;
- use economically sound solutions;
- follow the Principle of Sustainability (D.3).

#### A.5. Competition Format

The competition is held as an open international architectural ideas competition.

The Competition will be conducted according to the UNESCO/UIA Standard Regulations for international competitions in architecture and town planning.

The competition is a single-stage competition, with the requirement that the authors of winning designs submit materials for the exhibition.

The registration fee for participants is 35 USD.

The language of the competition is English.

## A.6. Competition Promoter

The client and promoter of the competition (hereinafter referred to as the Promoter) is theUkrainianJewishEncounter(Canada)CharityFoundation.(http://ukrainianjewishencounter.org)

The competition is held with the support of:

- the National Organizing Committee on preparation and holding of events in connection with 75th anniversary of the Babyn Yar tragedy (http://www.president.gov.ua/documents/6252015-19549)
- the International Union of Architects (UIA) (http://www.uia.archi)
- the National Union of Architects of Ukraine (http://www.nsau.org)
- the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance (http://memory.gov.ua)
- Department for Urban Planning and Architecture of the Kyiv City State Administration (http://kga.gov.ua)

## A.7. Conditions for Registration

Participants in the competition are expected to be professional architects, landscape architects, and urban planners who have the right to provide professional design services according to the laws of the country where they are based. Design teams headed by a professional architect, landscape architect, or urban planner who have the right to provide professional design services can also participate. Participants may be citizens of any country.

Each participant or team of participants must register before the specified deadline using the registration form found on the official website of the competition (http://konkurs.kby.kiev.ua/), choose a unique alphanumeric registration code, and pay the registration fee.

The effective date and time of the registration will correspond to the date and time at which the payment of the registration fee is completed, as determined by the message received by the Promoter from the payment system.

Teams cannot replace/exclude the team leader or team members after the registration form has been submitted.

If registered competition participants wish to change the leader or members of the design team, they have to register anew and pay the registration fee.

Contact information for a registered competition participant (or a team of participants) entered in the registration form that was submitted on the website can be changed, with the change noted in the Declaration of Authorship.

Each participant or team of participants may submit only one entry. No participant can be part of more than one design team.

All competition entries should be submitted anonymously using a unique alphanumeric code specified during the registration process. All competition entries should be submitted in digital format to the competition's email address: competition.babynyar@gmail.com.

By registering, the participant accepts all conditions as outlined in the complete competition brief, and, in case of being selected as one of the prize winners, agrees to submit to the promoter materials for the exhibition according to the requirements outlined in A.12.

Individuals taking part in the organizing of the competition, as well as members of the jury or their family members, are not eligible to participate in the competition.

#### A.8. Jury Panel and Evaluation Process

The competition jury will select seven (7) best projects within the timeframe specified in the competition schedule at a meeting of the jury in Kyiv. The international jury is composed of highly qualified architects and landscape designers:

The jury includes:

Barbara **Aronson** (Israel) – urban and town planner, landscape architect – http://www.s-aronson.co.il;

Marti Franch **Batllori** (Spain) – landscape architect – http://www.emf.cat;

Dr. Markus Jatsch (United Kingdom) – architect – http://www.marthaschwartz.com;

Mykhaylo Hershenzon (Ukraine) – architect – http://gershenzon.com.ua;

Dr. Vladyslav **Hrynevych** (Ukraine) – historian, political scientist; http://history.ukma.edu.ua/faculty/vladyslav\_hrynevych;

Jörg **Michel** (Germany) – landscape architect, landscape gardener – http://www.pola-berlin.de;

Jimmy Norrman (Sweden) - landscape architect, architect - http://funkia.se;

Olivier Philippe (France), representative of UIA – landscape architect; http://agenceter.com/;

Dr. Dieter **Pohl** (Germany) – historian; http://www.uni-klu.ac.at/his/inhalt/807.htm;

Serhiy **Tselovalnyk** (Ukraine) – Chief Architect of Kyiv (2010–2015) – https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Целовальник\_Сергій\_Анатолійович;

Prof. James E. **Young** (USA) – historian; https://www.umass.edu/english/member/james-eyoung.

Deputy jury members:

Volodymyr Pryimak (Ukraine) – architect; http://adb.kiev.ua/crew/priymak;

David **Bosshard** (Switzerland) – Landscape architect / UIA representative; www.david-bosshard.ch.

The decision of the jury is final.

The competition results will be documented in minutes to be signed by all members of the jury who participated in the evaluation.

A copy of the jury's decision will be sent to the International Union of Architects.

## A.9. Disqualification

A competition entry may be disqualified if it does not fulfill the requirements outlined in the competition brief, as well as in the following cases:

- Participant attempts to communicate with jury members;
- Entry materials are received by the Promoter after the designated deadline;
- Participant uses any language other than English;
- The entry's anonymity has not been maintained.

Each participant should be able to confirm that he/she is, in fact, the author of the project submitted for the competition.

## A.10. Obtaining Competition Documentation

The competition program and links to downloading working documents will be available on the competition website konkurs.kby.kiev.ua once the competition is officially announced (see A.17. Competition Schedule).

Participants can send in their questions to competition.babynyar@gmail.com within the timeframe designated in the competition schedule. Replies will be sent to all registered participants every two weeks according to the following schedule: 01/08/2016, 01/22/2016, 02/05/2016, 02/19/2016, 03/04/2016, 03/01/2016, 04/01/2016.

## A.11. Technical Requirements for Submitting Entry Materials

To ensure anonymity, each participant must choose an alphanumeric code composed of two letters and four numbers. The code must be placed on an identification label 2x8 cm (HxW) in Arial font, in characters 10 mm in height; the label is to be placed in the upper right corner of the presentation board 2 cm from the sides of the board (see The Layout on the boards). The numbering of the board has to be placed after the alphanumeric code, separated by a hyphen (AA0000-0).

Beside the identification label, each participant must place a label with the competition logo on their presentation boards. The label, sized 2x8 cm (HxW), is to be placed in the upper left corner of the presentation board 2 cm from the sides of the board (see The Layout on the boards).

The entry project has to be compiled in a folder, with the folder name identical to the participant's alphanumeric code (AA0000). The entry project is to be submitted electronically to competition.babynyar@gmail.com using the file-hosting service https://www.wetransfer.com/. The entry project has to include:

- Two presentation boards, 2378 x 841 mm, portrait orientation, in two file formats: JPG with 300 dpi resolution, with minimal level of compression and maximum image quality, as well as PDF with 300 dpi resolution.
- An explanatory report providing a concise description, in English, of the core concept of the project as it relates to the goals and guidelines of the competition.

- No less than eight (8) perspective images (in separate files), including two (2) aerial views. RGB color model, JPG format, with minimal level of compression and maximum image quality. Minimum dimensions: 3600 px on the longer side.
- A video clip using a 3D model of the territory, demonstrating and spelling out the idea on which the project is based. The video should be 1 to 3 minutes long, not include repetitions, and be in MPEG-4 format. The minimum resolution of the video should be 720p; codec—H.264.
- All the texts used in the video clip, as a separate file in RTF format.
- A declaration of authorship that includes a list of team members, their contact information, percentage distribution of the eventual prize money. The declaration of authorship should be certified by signatures of the team members.

Submitted presentation boards should include the following information:

- An explanatory report providing a concise description, in English, of the core concept of the project as it relates to the goals and guidelines of the competition. Report length should not exceed 400 words. It is recommended that the report be placed in the center section of the boards.
- Master plan, scale: 1:2000.
  The master plan should be placed in the lower part of the first presentation board.
  It cannot be changed or turned.
- A fragment of the master plan, chosen by the participant, scale: 1:500, 500x500 mm in size.

The fragment should reflect the general concept of the landscape depicted in the master plan in detail.

• Perspective images.

The general appearance of the territory under design should be included.

It is recommended that perspective images be placed in the upper section of the presentation boards.

• Schemes, diagrams, sections, images, details, and explanatory notes elucidating proposed solutions, including processes, materials to be used, engineering solutions, economic rationale, ideas on how the project could evolve over time, etc.

The layout of information placement on presentation boards (see The Layout on the boards).

All drawings must be executed in metric units.

It is prohibited to place any text or insignia/marks which could be used to identify the author(s) on any of the documents constituting an entry, except for the declaration of authorship.

Anonymity must be maintained also with regard to all electronic files which will be submitted. Filenames must include the alphanumeric code chosen by the participant entrant for the entry identification. Filenames and file sizes must correspond to the following parameters:

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Filename</u>	<u>Max. size</u>
Presentation board # 1	AA0000-1_Board.pdf	100 MB
Presentation board # 2	AA0000-2_Board.pdf	100 MB
Presentation board # 1	AA0000-1_Board.jpeg	100 MB
Presentation board # 2	AA0000-2_Board.jpeg	100 MB
Explanatory report	AA0000_Explanatory_Report.pdf	3 MB
Aerial view # 1	AA0000_Aerial_View_1.jpeg	10 MB
Aerial view # 2	AA0000_Aerial_View_2.jpeg	10 MB
Perspective image # 1	AA0000_Persp_1.jpeg	10 MB
Perspective image # 2	AA0000_Persp_2.jpeg	10 MB
Perspective image # 3	AA0000_Persp_3.jpeg	10 MB
Perspective image # 4	AA0000_Persp_4.jpeg	10 MB
Perspective image # 5	AA0000_Persp_5.jpeg	10 MB
Perspective image # 6	AA0000_Persp_6.jpeg	10 MB
Video clip	AA0000_Video.mp4	200 MB
Texts from the video clip	AA0000_Texts.rtf	5 MB
Declaration of Authorship	AA0000_Authorship_Declaration.pdf	3 MB

## A.12. Technical Requirements for Submitting Exhibition Materials

Authors of seven (7) best projects are required to provide materials for the exhibition before the deadline specified in the competition schedule (see A.16).

 Physical model of a landscape fragment in color (corresponding to the fragment of the master plan depicted on the presentation boards), 500x500 mm in size, at the scale of 1:500. The physical model should not be constructed of soft or fragile material (soft foam, paper, etc.).

The physical model should be sent to the postal address which will be announced after May 11, 2016. The physical model should be received at this address no later than July 31, 2016.

- Itemized report specifying cost of materials used in constructing the physical model, to be used in determining the amount of insurance payment.
- Information on the date the physical model was shipped as well as waybill number / postal tracking number.

These should be sent to the electronic address: competition.babynyar@gmail.com

# A.13. Insurance for Exhibition Materials

The organizer of the competition guarantees insurance for physical models of seven (7) best projects, with the coverage period beginning from the moment of receipt of the shipment and for the duration of the exhibition. Amount of insurance coverage is equal to the cost of materials used for constructing the physical model.

# A.14. Copyright and Ownership of Competition Projects

The ownership and copyright for the project is retained by the author(s) of the submission.

All materials submitted for the competition and the exhibition become part of the archive belonging to the Promoter of the competition.

Participants do not have the right to publish or otherwise circulate their submitted projects before the official announcement of the competition results.

#### A.15. Prizes

Within one month of the date that the competition results are announced, authors of seven (7) best projects will be awarded the following prizes:

- 1st prize 17,000 USD;
- 2nd prize 12,000 USD;
- 3rd prize 7,000 USD;
- 4 runner-up prizes, at 3,000 USD each.

Authors of seven (7) best proposals will also receive an honorarium for submitting materials for the exhibition in the amount of 3,000 USD each, within one month of receipt of exhibition materials by the Promoter.

All winning participants/teams will be notified of the jury decision via email.

Please note that some countries have taxation laws that may impose taxes on prize money awarded to designers. These laws differ from country to country.

In case the exhibition materials are not submitted, or submitted in an incomplete state, or arrive after the specified deadline, or do not conform to the requirements laid out in the competition brief (see A.12.), the Promoter reserves the right to:

- withhold payment of the honorarium for submission of exhibition materials;
- refuse to display the entry in the exhibition;
- omit any mentions of the project in upcoming publications and when disseminating information about the competition;
- exclude the entry and its author(s) from the follow-up stages of the project and its eventual implementation.

## A.16. Publicizing Competition Projects

The Promoter of the competition reserves the right to publish and circulate competition projects or information on competition projects in mass media and on the competition website.

All competition projects with the names of their authors, including those disqualified, will be published on the competition website within two weeks of the announcement of the competition results, together with a copy of minutes signed by the jury.

Seven (7) best competition entries will be displayed at the concluding exhibition in Kyiv.

#### A.17. Competition <u>Timeline</u>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Phase</u>			
Dec. 25, 2015	Announcement of the competition. Publication of the competition brief. Opening of the registration.			
Mar. 18, 2016 *	Deadline for sending in questions.			
Mar. 31, 2016 *	Deadline for registration of participants.			
Apr. 01, 2016 *	Deadline for sending out answers from the organizers.			
May 22, 2016 *	Deadline for submission of competition projects.			
May 25, 2016 –				
May 30, 2016	Expert review of submitted competition projects.			
Jun. 1, 2015 –				
Jun. 4, 2016	Evaluation of competition projects. Jury vote in Kyiv.			
Jun. 9, 2016	Announcement of the results and competition winners.			
Jul. 12, 2016 *	Deadline for submission of exhibition materials.			
Jul. 31, 2016	Deadline for receipt of physical models for the exhibition by the Promoter.			
Sep. 15, 2016	Opening of the exhibition "Babyn Yar: The Memory Against the Historical Background"			
Sep. 28, 2016	Awards ceremony and presentation of the winning projects.			
Oct. 01, 2017	Close of the exhibition.			
*All deadlines are 11:59 p.m. local time in Ukraine (EET UTC +2; EEST UTC +3).				

#### **B. HISTORY**

#### **B.1. Pre-World War II Period**

This period can be characterized as the prequel to the history of Babyn Yar that saw a natural evolution of the stage on which numerous tragedies and dramas would later play themselves out.

Babyn Yar, a tract of land in the north-west part of Kyiv, is situated on the territory stretching from today's Dorohozhytska Street to Kurenivka neighborhood (Frunze Street) and between the city's Lukianivka and Syrets districts. Before the surrounding territory came under development in later years, Babyn Yar was one of Kyiv's largest ravines – almost 2.5 km long and 30 m deep. The Kyrylivskyi stream ran along its bottom.

The history of Babyn Yar and the Dorohozhychi Necropolis begins in the mid-third millennium BC, when settlements belonging to the late Trypillian culture first appeared on the Kyryliv hills. Thus arose the first necropolis nearby—the burial mounds, the remains of which have been preserved to this day, although no archaeological excavations have been conducted on them as yet.

Afterwards, there seems to be a long silence which is finally broken in the medieval times, when the *Rus' Chronicle* makes repeated mentions of Dorohozhychi. This area, situated on the outskirts of Kyiv, was the junction where roads from Vyshhorod, Chernihiv, Novhorod, Smolensk, and other cities converged. Dorohozhychi served more than once as Kyiv's line of defense during conflicts between Rus' princes. In the mid-12th century, Princess Maria, daughter of Mstyslav the Great and wife of Kyiv's Prince Vsevolod Olhovych, built here the Kyrylivska church along with the eponymous monastery.

The name Babyn Yar dates back more than 600 years, when, in 1401, the owner of the adjacent land, an old woman (Ukrainian: *baba*) who was a tavern keeper, bequeathed it to a Dominican monastery. From that time on, the ravine (Yar) was named Babyn (the possessive of *baba*); an alternative name used from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> century was "Bisova Baba" ("wacky old woman"). The name of an adjacent tract, Repiakhiv Yar, is derived from the nature of the local vegetation characterized by vast growths of burdock, or *repiakhy*.

The second period of the pre-history of Babyn Yar and the surrounding historic necropolis is related to the establishment of a number of cemeteries. Their beginnings are traced to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, when, in 1787, a hospice and hospital for the mentally ill were established in the buildings of the closed Kyrylivskyi monastery. A cemetery began to form nearby, for those who died in these facilities; in 1871, the burial ground was expanded and converted into a

municipal cemetery. Not long afterwards, in 1878, it was decided to create yet another municipal cemetery behind Babyn Yar – the Lukianivske cemetery.

At the beginning of the 20th century a section was set aside for the Bratske cemetery, located near the head end of Babyn Yar. Initially, this was the cemetery where the deceased soldiers of the Kyiv garrison were buried, later on, this became the place of burial for victims of World War I and the subsequent civil war. In 1910, sections of the cemetery were parceled off for use by Lutheran Evangelicals and Catholic Mariavites. Another three religious cemeteries were established further to the north between the beds of the Babyn and Repiakhiv ravines. These included, in 1894, a Jewish cemetery that bordered the Kyrylivske Orthodox cemetery, and in 1902, Karaite and Muslim cemeteries.

This multi-ethnic and multi-faith necropolis became, in effect, a peaceful prototype for what would later turn into the horrific grave that Babyn Yar became. A foreboding of the subsequent appalling fate of Kyiv's Jews occurred already in 1907, when victims of that year's *pogroms* were buried in a mass grave in the Jewish cemetery.

The third period of the pre-history of Babyn Yar and the necropolis essentially belongs to the modern era. Back in the Tsarist times, Kyiv had existed and evolved within the framework of a traditional society and the Christian civilization. After the upheavals of 1917-1920, Kyiv became part of a state that completely rejected the traditional concept of God, the spiritual nature of human beings, and life and death. For Babyn Yar and the Dorohozhychi Necropolis, this had twofold consequences, which to a certain degree modeled what would happen here in the middle and the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. First, a utilitarian view of Kyiv's development brought forth a series of plans for the transformation of Babyn Yar and its adjoining cemeteries into a park. This concept was comprehensively incorporated into the General Plan of City Reconstruction, which was developed after the capital of the Ukrainian S.S.R. had been moved from Kharkiv to Kyiv in 1934. According to this document, Babyn Yar as well as the Lukianivske and Jewish cemeteries were to become a cultural and recreational park in the Lukianivsky district of the city. The authorities did not manage to realize this plan prior to the outbreak of World War II.

During the interwar period, several cemeteries near the Babyn Yar site first began to be associated with crimes committed by the totalitarian regime. During the Great Famine (Holodomor) of 1932-1933, a grave was dug on the territory of Bratske cemetery, and corpses of people who would die of hunger on the streets of Kyiv would simply be dumped into it. In the adjacent Lukianivske cemetery, people executed by the Soviet secret police were buried (some of them executed on the spot).

#### B.2. Nazi Occupation of Kyiv during World War II

#### B.2.1. Mass execution of Jews in the fall of 1941

Shortly after Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, events took place that moved Babyn Yar into the forefront of world history.

The invading German armies occupied Kyiv on 19 September 1941. Five days later (on September 24) explosions rocked the core of the city as Soviet saboteurs blew up buildings where the occupation administration set up its offices and were German officers live. The explosions lasted several days and Kyiv's main street, Khreshchatyk, was almost completely destroyed. The Nazis used the attacks as a pretext, to make an example of exterminating the city's Jews who were blamed for the bombings and fires.

On 28 September, flyers in Russian, Ukrainian, and German were posted throughout the city: "*All Jews of Kyiv and vicinities are instructed to meet on Monday, 29 September 1941 by 8 o'clock in the morning at Melnykova and Dokterivska* [correctly Degtyarivska] *Streets (near the cemetery). Everyone should bring with them their documents, money, linens, and other things. Whoever does not obey these instructions will be shot. Whoever occupies a Jewish apartment or plunders belongings from these apartments will be shot."* 

On 29 September 1941, columns of Jews—primarily women, the elderly, and children with suitcases, coming from all districts of the city—arrived in Lukianivska Square and made their way toward Babyn Yar. Most of the victims had no suspicion of what was transpiring until it was too late. The occupiers even circulated rumors about a plan to transport Jews out of the city. Upon passing through the barbed wire enclosure at the fork of Melnykova and Dorohozhytska Streets, there was no turning back. Near the Bratske cemetery, personal items, documents, and valuables were taken from the people who were then directed in columns to the ravine/Yar. On the clearing near the downslope they were forced to strip naked, go down the slope into the ravine, lie face down; then they were murdered with shots to the head. On that first day, twenty-two thousand people were executed. Those whom the Germans did not manage to execute were locked for the night in garages of the tank repair shop on the corner of Melnykova and Dorohozhytska Streets. Over the course of those two days, 29-30 September 1941, German statistics record that 33,771 people were executed. After the shooting, Germans detonated the slopes of the ravine.

The path of the Jews on 29 September 1941, along Melnykova Street from Lukianivska Square and later through the Bratske and Lukianivske cemeteries to Babyn Yar, became Kyiv's Via Dolorosa – the Path of Sorrow, which should be marked as such on maps of the city.

The executions of Jews did not conclude on that day, and neither was their mournful walk along the Path of Sorrow to Babyn Yar over. The only difference was that, on subsequent days, Jews would specifically first be herded in the garages and then brought in transport trucks to their place of execution. In total, by the middle of November, around 65,000 Jews of Kyiv were executed. The tempo of executions became ever slower, while the city's inhabitants eventually grew accustomed to the fact that Babyn Yar became a killing site.

Many Jews who tried to hide from the executions were betrayed by neighbors and former friends, and captured and handed over to the Nazi Germans by the local Ukrainian Auxiliary Police. At the same time, hundreds of Ukrainians, the Righteous of Babyn Yar, at great risk to their own lives and the lives of their families, rescued Jews from death by hiding them in their homes. As of today, the names of over 600 such heroes have been documented by Ukrainian scholars. They deserve to be remembered and honored.

#### B.2.2. Two years of occupation

The high point of killings that occurred on 29 September 1941 should not mean that other victims of Nazi crimes are to be ignored. Among them are: Soviet prisoners-of-war (first and foremost, commissars, Communists, and Jews), Roma/Gypsies, Communists and Ukrainian nationalists who were civilians, Soviet and Ukrainian underground fighters, prisoners of the Syrets concentration camp, the mentally ill from the Pavlov (former Kyrylivska) hospital, hostages from among the regular residents of Kyiv, Christian clergy, and the local intelligentsia.

The first executions at Babyn Yar took place the day after the German Army entered the city. On September 20, 1941, this was already the place where Soviet prisoners-of-war were executed. These executions lasted until the beginning of October. The victims would be transported to Babyn Yar from a designated section of the camp for prisoners-of-war set up at the Zenit Stadium (currently Start Stadium). Jewish prisoners-of-war, Communist political leaders and commissars, and later hostages from among Kyiv residents (half of whom were also Jewish) were detained there.

Beginning in October 1941, Nazis began executing other groups as well. On 13 October, 308 Jewish patients from the Pavlov hospital were executed, while over 800 patients of other nationalities were executed in the course of 1942. The Pavlov hospital was allegedly used to treat Soviet prisoners-of-war, who by the thousands were shot or died (and were buried close by) because of hunger, cold, and typhoid.

Throughout October and November 1941, on orders from the governor of the city, over 800 hostages from among the local residents were also executed in Babyn Yar. At roughly the same time two Roma/Gypsy camps were exterminated at Babyn Yar: approximately 100 men, women, elderly and children.

In the winter of 1941-1942, the main location of the executions and burials became the antitank ditch near the head end of Babyn Yar. Local residents specifically recalled the executions here of several dozen Red Navy sailors.

Beginning in December 1941, Nazis began executing Ukrainian nationalists in Babyn Yar, primarily members of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists allied with Colonel Andrii Melnyk. Among them were the poet Olena Teliha, the head of Kyiv's municipal administration, and one of the organizers of the local police who had rescued a Jewish boy during the September executions. In total, during the occupation period, 621 Ukrainian patriots were executed.

Several thousand Communists who had remained in Kyiv and had officially registered in the fall of 1941 were executed in Babyn Yar the following spring.

In the spring of 1942, Syrets concentration camp was established in the vicinity of Babyn Yar, on the territory of former Russian and later Soviet summer military camps. Initially, Soviet prisoners-of-war were held there; later, the camp became the destination of all other enemies of the Nazi regime, including members of the underground, Communists, Ukrainian nationalists, Jews, and common criminals. Of these, 5,000 were executed or died as a result of inhumane conditions and were buried in the ravine or in pits on the territory of the camp. Among the murdered were also four soccer players from Kyiv Dynamo team who had participated in winning matches against German teams.

Over the course of 1941 and 1942, every Friday one or two closed transports arrived at Babyn Yar carrying corpses of detainees executed at the security police and the secret service prison on Korolenka Street. Many of them were poisoned with the help of so-called gas vans.

In August 1943, a special team consisting of several hundred prisoners of the Syrets camp was ordered, under the watch of the Nazis, to exhume corpses from Babyn Yar, from the anti-tank ditch, and the area near the Pavlov hospital. They were ordered to burn them in large open ovens, crush the bones, and scatter the ashes over the entire ravine. In this way the German occupiers attempted to cover up their crimes. But on 29 September 1943, the prisoners revolted, and nearly 20 of them who successfully escaped later told about the horrors they witnessed and in which they participated.

The testimonies of these witnesses served as the foundation for the conclusions of the Soviet Extraordinary State Commission that investigated the circumstances of the crimes committed in Babyn Yar. The Commission reported in January 1944 that during the two years of Nazi occupation approximately 90-100 thousand people were killed and buried in Babyn Yar and the surrounding area. However, it omitted any mention of Jews, or its documented estimate that some 70,000 of the victims at Babyn Yar were Jews.

#### **B.3. Postwar Soviet Era**

The subsequent period of Babyn Yar history is characterized by the transformation of Babyn Yar into a site of oblivion. At the same time, members of the community tried to commemorate the executed Jews. Their efforts met with resistance on the part of the Communist authorities, who acted to eradicate the memory of these events and to distort it. The authorities' methods included a ban on mass gatherings, censorship, arrests, and the erasure of the site itself and the surrounding cemeteries. The Soviet leadership consistently refused to acknowledge that the massacre of September 1941 amounted to an unparalleled war crime, namely, the attempt to kill every singe Jew in the city at the time. Hence, any serious commemorations of the memory of Babyn Yar victims was prohibited.

On November 6, 1943, Kyiv was liberated from Nazi occupation. The local Soviet authorities, known for their general disrespect for burial sites, tried to transform Babyn Yar and the surrounding historic necropolis into a recreational and sports park. The designer of this project was the head architect of Kyiv in the early postwar years, Alexander Vlasov. This is the same Vlasov who designed a monument to the victims of Babyn Yar, although it was never erected. As for the recreational and sports park, it was only partially realized. New streets were laid and cemeteries were destroyed and/or partially built over.

At the same time, two new cemeteries were established in the area surrounding Babyn Yar during this period: the Military (Viyskove) cemetery on the site of the former Bratske cemetery, and another cemetery (located near the current "Syrets" metro station) for about 250 German prisoners-of-war who died at the former Syrets concentration camp between 1944 and 1949.

In 1950, the municipal authority decided to fill Babyn Yar with waste from the Petrovsky brick factories and then to lay out two roads across its territory. One of them, an extension of Melnykova Street, cut Babyn Yar into two unequal sections, a large northern section and a smaller southern section. The southern section was transformed into a small park, part of which was eventually re-zoned for garages. The northern section was used in part to build the Syrets residential neighborhood and in part for a sports complex and a park.

In 1952, the city began to fill the Babyn Yar ravine with pulp waste from the brick factories that was pumped in for a period of almost ten years. At its center, the ravine was crossed by an earthen dam, but the parameters of its embankment and the capacity of its drainage system were not in compliance with safety standards. On 13 March 1961, the dam, which was intended to protect residential buildings, broke. A mudslide almost 20 meters wide and 14 meters high gushed in the direction of Kurenivka, razing buildings, cars, and people. Liquid pulp waste quickly hardened, creating a 4-meters-deep stone bedding, the total volume of which was 600 thousand m<sup>3</sup>.

Altogether, the liquid pulp flooded an area of approximately 30 hectares, destroyed over 30 buildings and, in essence, completely destroyed the Krasin streetcar (tram) depo. The authorities decided to hush up the true extent of this tragedy and switched off intercity and international telephone lines in Kyiv. In the official report broadcasted on the radio three days later (16 March), no victims were mentioned. To this day, the number of people who died has not been determined. Official sources cited 145 people, including 31 employees of the Krasin streetcar depo, but historians estimate that the number of victims may be as high as 1,500 people.

In the early 1960s, during "The Thaw"—the period when political repressions were scaled back—there were new attempts to honor the memory of those who had perished. The climax of these efforts took the form of an unsanctioned mass rally at Babyn Yar organized by young Jewish activists in Kyiv on 29 September 1966, the 25th anniversary of the beginning of mass executions of Kyiv's Jews. Rallies also took place in subsequent years. They featured speeches by well-known representatives of the Kyiv intelligentsia, which included not only Jews but also ethnic Ukrainians and Russians, among them the writers and critics Ivan Dziuba, Viktor Nekrasov, and Borys Antonenko-Davydovych. They spoke specifically about the tragedy of the Jewish people at Babyn Yar. Dziuba, in particular, spoke about the obligation of Ukrainians to fight Antisemitism that still existed among them and the need for Jews to show respect for Ukrainians.

In July 1976, almost ten years after the unofficial 1966 commemoration, the Soviet authorities finally erected a large bronze sculpture at the site, commemorating the "Citizens of the City of Kyiv and Prisoners of War" killed in Babyn Yar between 1941 and 1943. The memorial made no mention of Jews and the official commemorations at the site in the years following were clearly intended to preclude gatherings by "nationalist Jewish citizens".

Concurrently, the historic necropolis was steadily being destroyed. In 1962, a city ordinance was passed calling for the liquidation of the Jewish and Karaite cemeteries. On the territory of

the former Bratske cemetery, a television tower was built in 1973, while the Jewish cemetery saw the construction of a television center, a building to house Communist Party archives (the current Kyiv Regional Archive), and the "Avanguard" sports complex.

#### **B.4. Recent Times**

In September 1991, one month after Ukraine declared its independence, the first ever official national Ukrainian commemoration of the massacre took place. The future President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk, who at that time was the speaker of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, said that it was appropriate to "ask forgiveness from the Jewish people, against whom were committed so many injustices in our history." The apology was far from popular, and it was decided not to print it. At the same time, texts in Russian and Yiddish were added to the Soviet memorial, and, at another location (far from the shooting site), the Jewish community placed a bronze menorah. Other memorial signs were then introduced, including a wooden cross erected by the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists; crosses for Russian Orthodox priests and monks who were also shot at the site; a memorial to the murdered children of Babyn Yar, and some 25 other memorials to individuals or groups.

Specific examples of thoughtless development planning and irresponsible treatment of this historical territory include active real estate development of nearby residential districts, with construction waste dumped in the very center of Babyn Yar, as well as the opening of "Dorohozhychi" metro station in 2000 in the former epicenter of mass executions.

The situation is further complicated by numerous proposals of erecting new memorial and pseudo-memorial structures (e.g. museums, memorial complexes, community centers) in Babyn Yar and on the territories of adjacent cemeteries. Such proposals are being floated time and again in the community and in architectural circles.

A quarter of a century of Ukrainian state's independence have made it abundantly clear that Ukrainian society has not yet succeeded in coming to terms with its painful past and has not fully overcome the tendency to politicize that past. Moreover, beyond interethnic and intercommunal rivalries, both the Ukrainian people and the Jewish community have been divided internally on how best to recover from the past and build a sustainable, shared future. This divide was significantly overcome as a result of the Revolution of Dignity of 2013-2014, which saw important expressions of inter-ethnic and inter-faith solidarity, and contributed to strengthened relations between Ukrainians and Jews. Such progress in mutual understanding offers an opportunity for addressing the issues of the tragic past. However, the former killing grounds still are far from being a commemorative space respectful of the dead of Babyn Yar.

## C. SITE ANALYSIS

#### C.1. Transportation and Accessibility

The site is conveniently situated within Kyiv's urban transportation system. Babyn Yar is easily accessible from all parts of the city by metro (subway), trolleybuses, streetcars, buses and small route buses.

Bicycling is not well developed as a movement in Kyiv due to the specifics of topography (generally hilly terrain) and rather intensive/unsafe road traffic. There are no bicycle paths on or around the specified territory. Thus, the site requires an unobtrusive infrastructure for bicycling that preserves areas of the necropolis for meditation and reflection.

The historical-memorial preserve "Babyn Yar" is divided into two sections by Melnykova Street. These sections are not connected by pedestrian walkways that would be comfortable for the park visitors; there is only the underground passage that includes the entrance to the "Dorohozhychi" metro (subway) station.

#### C.2. Topography and Soil

The competition site, the "Babyn Yar—Dorohozhychi Necropolis," is basically a system of natural ravines (Babyn Yar and Repiakhiv Yar) that slope into the valley of the Dnipro River.

The depth of Babyn Yar ranges between 24 and 68 m; its length is 2.6 km. The ravine has many tributary gullies, currently partially buried under alluvial soils and built over. Otherwise, Babyn Yar extends through a forest, forest sands, moraines, and clay, eventually crossing into the valley in the vicinity of Syretska Balka.

Repiakhiv Yar, 32 m deep and 1.5 km long, enters the valley of the Dnipro River further to the south. It has steep slopes with pits and wooded areas, partially developed.

The landscape of Babyn Yar has been transformed by technological intervention, which was also a consequence of the Kurenivka disaster. Repiakhiv Yar was transformed with the laying of streets along its bottom – Vrubelivsky Descent and Hertsena Street.

The Kyryliv creek that runs through the Repiakhiv Yar has been culverted.

The area's general height above sea level is 185 m to 114 m.

According to data from 2005, groundwater settled at a level between 7.1 m and 10.0 m below the surface. The level of groundwater has not fundamentally changed since then.

In Kyiv, three fundamental soil groups can be identified corresponding with three types of landscapes: sod-podzolic soils not suitable for agriculture; marshy areas with gley/peaty soil; and alfisols formed under a forest cover on loess basis.

The territories of Babyn Yar and Repiakhiv Yar are the part of territories at high risk of landslides and groundwater flooding (according to the General Development Plan-2020 for Kyiv).

#### C.3. Climate

Ukraine has a mild continental climate characterized by four distinct seasons. The continental effect causes stark differences between temperature in summer and in winter, as well as between daytime and nighttime temperature. In January, average temperature in Kyiv is -5.3 °C; in July, +19.2 °C. Annual average temperature is +7.8 °C. The duration of the frost-free period is 180 days on average.

The average level of annual precipitation in Kyiv is 630 mm. The number of days with precipitation is 160. The average number of days with snow cover is 106. Average humidity is 75%.

Kyiv is situated in the north-central part of Ukraine where western and north-western winds prevail.

#### C.4. Vegetation

Kyiv is located in the transitional zone between Eastern European mixed forests and foreststeppes. The city is encircled by forests. The Northern, North-Western and Western parts of this circle belong to the mixed type – coniferous and deciduous forests that grow on sodpodzolic soils. In the forest-steppe zone in the South and East, deciduous forests dominate on chernozemic soil with some clay content. In both zones, the following tree types are typical: oak, basswood, maple, elm, poplar, and hornbeam.

## D. APPENDICES

## D.1. Surroundings

http://wikimapia.org/#lang=en&lat=50.476011&lon=30.455861&z=15&m=b&v=2

# D.2. International Standards for Design Drawings

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CAD\_standards

## D.3. Sustainability Principles

http://www.archdaily.com/769365/ad-essentials-sustainability

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainability