

**2004, 3rd Edition, Busan International Architectural Competition
The Eco-center at the Nakdong River, Busan, Korea
Nature vs. Man-made, Conflict or Harmony**

Jury Members

Chair: Gregory Burgess, Australia

Jong Sung Kimm, Korea, UIA Representative

Jun Sung Kim, Korea

Lise Anne Couture, USA

Eleni Gigantes, Greece

Alternative Jury Member: Xiaoming Liu, China, Representing the UIA

Adjudication Criteria

- 1. The jury was interested in selecting schemes which fulfilled the requirements of the competition, namely harmony between nature and artifacts.**
- 2. The jury tried to select those schemes which showed a great imagination and creativity in site planning and functional organization.**
- 3. Those schemes which showed a great sensitivity in eco-system and the balance between nature and human intervention were regarded highly.**
- 4. The jury considered buildability as one of the important factors for selection.**
- 5. The jury was searching for designs which possessed a high degree of excellence as works of architecture.**

Jong Sung Kimm and Xiaoming Liu

General Jury Report

The 3rd Edition of this competition attracted a record number of 298 entries from architects, landscape architects and students of both professions from 40 different countries around the world. The program and the proposed site set the competitors a challenging range of issues to respond to.

The site, on an estuary island in the Nadong River within the developing Ecological

Park, is a fragile environment, the seasonal habitat of migrating birds. Here the hypnotic drone of the cicadas and the herons silent stepping of the herons through the shallows are periodically punctuated by the low roar of jet engines overhead: the theme of conflict and harmony is dramatized. The original reeded, tidal wetlands have been disrupted by new perimeter embankments which create a surrounding ridge to the immediate site, containing it as a tree lined foreground to the distance city and mountains to the east and northeast. It is anticipated that the developing landscape and wetlands will help heal and reinstate the delicate balance needed to ensure that the birds continue to have a safe haven.

Visitors will be awakened to the ongoing struggle to find, monitor and maintain this precarious and dynamic balance by the engaging responsiveness of the new building to this special place and its supporting interpretive experiences.

While there were many interesting submissions exploring the harmonious co-existence of human beings and nature, relatively few displayed the essential conceptual clarity that comes from a deep understanding and synthesis of the potential of the program and the site. The jury's deliberations resulted in a three stage elimination process whereby the 298 entries were initially reduced to 50 then 28 and finally to 7, from which the 3 prize winners and 3 honorable mentions were selected.

Although there was spirited debate and discussion among the jury as to the relative strengths and weaknesses of the 6 winning schemes, each scheme shows compelling conceptual quality capable of further development into memorable and realizable projects.

The jury extends their congratulations to the winners. A brief jury response to each of them follows:

Written by Mr. Gregory Burgess, Jury Chair

1st Prize : Prestressed Wood (Japan+Korea)

A-5940

Professional

Yasuhiro, Yamashita (Team Leader)

Joko Structural Design

Endoh, Kazuhiro

Kim, Nam-gil
Hwang, Kee Tae

Day-dreams and night-fireworks. In spite of rather long technical descriptions of the proposal, the simplicity and elegancy are the most striking characters. The simplicity makes it as low tone to the nature of making.

Not only the chosen material and technology but also the sensibility to respond along with delicate existing conditions are wonderfully balanced. We all can easily anticipate the dancing light captured inside, the gentle smell of wood, and the gradual color changes at different layers of skin.

All those will evoke the imagination of visitors, when it stands on the site.

There are still unclear points which have to be solved in future developments; how the building hits the ground, the relation between the mezzanine level and the ground introduced inside, and the light penetration through double layers of wood skins.

But those are the minors to the overall convincing scheme. We believe that this Eco-center will gently sit on Ulsuk Island and be the mediator to make people aware of the importance of the environment.

Jury Report by Mr. Jun Sung Kim, Korea

2nd Prize: Eco-enter as a threshold of the eco-net (Korea)

U-8499

Professional

Bae, Gee Doo (Leader)

Hong, Jae-seung

Jung, Hyun-jung

So-hyung, Lim

Like the 1st and 3rd placed schemes the project chosen for the second place entitled "Eco-center as a threshold of the eco-net" the scheme possesses a strong and clear architectural idea. The proposal comprises an elongated bar shaped building that is submerged into the ground at the end and gently rises out to finally rest suspended above the grassy wetlands. Two axis in the form of inclined paths cutting into the earth intersect the building in different ways providing thresholds or gateways to the site as well as access to the interior of the building. Although many competition entries proposes plantings on the roof this scheme's minimal approach was the most

convincing and elegant proposal. Here the reed covered roof is understood as a “piece of the site” that has been lifted up to accommodate the placement of functions below therefore minimizing the impact of built elements on the site. The roof itself is programmed with “natural” exhibitions and is to be used as the bird observatory. As a poetic gesture the authors have proposed that the transparent sides of their building are wrapped in a scaffolding like structure comprised of what appears to be a tangle of branches. This would apparently invite the nesting of birds and suggests in fact that the building would function as a large scale living “bird nest” however it was the also the potential beauty of the aesthetic quality of this enclosure that the jury also appreciated. In terms of the interior of the building, the jury found the interior planning was still rather simplistic at this stage but not without promise. In particular, the proposed distribution of the exhibition program along a spiraling path that moves up through the building, cuts across the voids of the axis and culminates on the roof is worth noting. The jury members questioned the spatial quality of the axial paths that intersect the building however the idea that this intersection marks a 'node' along the 'eco-network' is quite interesting. The notion of the building as a node that is linked, and provides access to, several other minimally marked 'nodes' or programmed points on the site, or even in the world beyond, is quite provocative and the jury applauds the attempt to situate a concept for the eco-center into a wider context. As a last comment, the jury came to increasingly appreciate this scheme through a careful reading of the plans, sections, diagrams and text provided however the foreshortened perspective view that dominates the competition entry boards performed a disservice to this scheme as it is potentially a far more beautiful, subtle and sophisticated scheme than what the rendering suggests.

Jury Report by Ms. Lise Anne Couture

3rd Prize: Deep Sky (Belgium+France+China+Hong Kong)

A-2041

Professional

Godefroy, Claude (Team Leader: Belgium)

Forest, Mathieu (France)

Tang, Elva (China, Hong Kong)

Zou, Qiang (China)

During the judging process, this delicate and poetic entry was in danger of being lost

in a flood of over scaled, monomaniacal proposals. But to a jury fresh from the site, its central image instinctively drew the eye. The in the shifting wetlands - a world of wind and water, sun and sky - any human illusion of dominance dissolves utterly there is only *otherness*.

This entry shares with the 1st prize the sense of a special structure marking a sacred place. Nowadays one is sadly hesitant to say 'temple', but in fact this is what the earliest temples always were: architecture put in service to mystery.

In this case the architecture IS the roof, an object of great power. Beautifully conceived, it evokes the horizon and appears to float above the ground, casting only the shadow of its structural members. The underground spaces are well-planned, well-lit and pleasingly non-linear. The distribution of the programme is especially convincing in this entry.

However the jury felt that the basement would be expensive to build and difficult to maintain in this unreliable soil condition, and subject to flooding.

Jury Report by Ms. Eleni Gigantes

Honorable Mention: Endless Loop (Japan+Korea)

F-0220

Professional

Furuya, Nobuaki (Team Leader: Japan)

Choi, Sam Young (Korea)

Imagawa, Noribide (Japan)

Ando, Jun-ichi (Japan)

Jeong, Min Jeong (Korea)

Hirase, Yujin (Japan)

Sugiura Hisako (Japan)

Nakamura, Ko (Japan)

Itani, Tomoya (Japan)

Kuryu, Haruka (Japan)

Kobayashi, Masayoshi (Japan)

Takada, Seinosuke (Japan)

This project shows a sensitive and poetic responsiveness to the wind and water

formed nature of the site. While there were reservations about the naivety of the planning and workability of the roof concept, its contemporary interpretation of traditional Korean architectural devices such as the courtyard and inside-outside permeability combined with a typhoon resistant fanning structure of plantation timber, were considered appropriately sustainable both culturally and environmentally.

Jury Report by Mr. Gregory Burgess

Honorable Mention: Patterns of Lattice Doors (Spain)

P-2233

Professional

Perea, Andres (Team Leader)

Jose Manuel Garrido Molina

Paul Larios Marquina

Francisco Nieto Diaz Deyela

Nieves Mestre Martine

The scheme proposes a rectangular pavilion constructed of timber and clad in glass on four walls and the roof raised above the terrain by eight pylons.

The programmatic requirements are accommodated partly on the main level of the pavilion at +5.00, and partly on the mezzanine level at +2.30. Through movable glass enclosure, part of the main level can be opened or closed to weather in order to unite nature and the man-made elements on exhibit.

The transparency of the seemingly floating pavilion, simple yet sophisticated timber structure, and the idea of juxtaposing nature and artificial exhibits through movable enclosure are considered to be strengths of this scheme by the jury.

Jury Report by Jong Sung Kimm

Honorable Mention: Nature vs. Man-made: A Dynamic Process

(Belgium: Work in Switzerland)

N-0077

**Professional
Gilsoul, Nicolas**

This entry shows a good approach to eco-architectural design with emphases on natural process. With deep understanding of the site it makes a marvelous interaction between nature and man. The proposed site - a peninsula is changed into a much more sensitive finger-like one that launches linear modest buildings into the wildness of nature where both immigrant birds and local birds stay. The separated buildings function well and make the visitors to be exposed to nature as much as possible, while less interruption to nature. The ecological goals are also considered with more fresh air and good ventilation. But the eco-techniques and eco-materials are not demonstrated in-depth in terms of roof garden, recycling rainwater and energy.

Remarks by Prof. Xiaoming Liu