



The European Platform for  
Architectural Design Competition

# ARCH-E

## 17 Good Practice Examples in ADCs

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# Table of Contents

List of ARCH-E Partners and Cooperation Partners .....	3
Introduction .....	4
<b>17 Good Practice Examples in ADCs .....</b>	<b>9</b>
1. Cooperated ADCs in Austria: The Case of Graz University Library .....	11
2. Slovenian ADC Regulation: The Extension of the Plečnik's Baragova Seminary .....	13
3. "Een Nieuwe Bouwcultuur": The Case of Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle .....	15
4. SIA Ordnung 142: Regulation and Tools of the Swiss ADC System .....	17
5. From Idea to Plan: The Urban Transformation of the Former Military Barracks in Lušćić .....	19
6. IMPSOL Competition Series: The Case of 85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà .....	21
7. Architectural Heritage and Innovation: The New Educational Building for the Health Sciences Faculty of Semmelweis University .....	23
8. Transparency through Participation: The Luise Büchner Educational Campus .....	25
9. Fostering Community and Creativity: Lemba Culture Village .....	27
10. Challenges and Innovation in Czech ADCs: Lessons from the Chýně-Hostivice Community School .....	29
11. An Experimental Rapid Design Competition: ROTUNDA Pavilion for Aarhus City of Culture .....	31
12. Transforming a Decades-Abandoned Structure: The Centre for the Meeting of Cultures in Lublin .....	33
13. A Private Competition Envisioning Communal Housing: Housing Cooperative "Lugar Comum" .....	35
14. International architectural design competition for the National Concert Hall: "Tautos namai" .....	37
15. Finding a Contemporary Approach to an Historically Sensitive Site: Katajanokan Laituri .....	40
16. Open international architectural competition for an adaptive technical design: "Future school for Ukraine" .....	43
17. Public Participation Process: Lido Stainz (Freibad Stainz) .....	46
<b>List of Figures .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Colophon .....</b>	<b>50</b>

## List of ARCH-E Partners and Cooperation Partners

<b>BKZT</b>	Federal Chamber of Civil Engineers (Austria)
<b>ACE</b>	Architects' Council of Europe
<b>CCA</b>	Croatian Chamber of Architects
<b>ZAPS</b>	Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia
<b>CAA</b>	Cyprus Architects Association
<b>BAK</b>	Federal Chamber of German Architects
<b>TU/e</b>	Eindhoven University of Technology (The Netherlands)
<b>UPV</b>	Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain)
<b>SEPA</b>	SEPA Engineering GmbH
<b>MÉK</b>	Chamber of Hungarian Architects
<b>UIA</b>	International Union of Architects
	Chamber of Architects in South Tyrol (Province of Bolzano)
<b>CNOA</b>	National Council of the Order of Architects (France)
<b>ČKA</b>	Czech Chamber of Architects
<b>SIA</b>	Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects
<b>OA</b>	Portuguese Order of Architects
<b>OAR</b>	Romanian Order of Architects
<b>EAL</b>	Estonian Association of Architects
<b>CNAPPC</b>	National Council of Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservationists (Italy)

# Introduction

ARCH-E is a project co-funded by the European Union under the Creative Europe framework (CREA). Its main objective is to promote high-quality architectural solutions for the built environment by increasing the use of architectural design competitions (ADC) in Europe. Currently, transnational participation in ADCs is very low due to barriers that exclude the vast majority of architects from the market. This hinders competition and thus lowers the quality of our built environment, as many great ideas get lost. Small/micro-enterprises - with an above-average proportion of female and/or young architects - are particularly affected, which has a detrimental effect on their professional career. Promoting ADCs will lead to a better implementation of the Davos Declaration for Baukultur and of the New European Bauhaus, as high-quality building projects will help to meet the climate challenge and to improve the quality of the built environment.

ARCH-E has gathered data to uncover the main challenges and, on this basis, provides policy recommendations as well as tools for architects to be used in their everyday work. The main outputs

are the ARCH-E Map, a comparative description of national ADC systems, the multilingual ARCH-E Glossary with technical terms and the Architects' Needs Report. The newly developed ARCH-E online platform provides a wide range of information on ADC systems (with a special focus on consideration of Baukultur und New Bauhaus standards) and facilitates transnational participation. One core element is a network of >500 architects from >20 countries, from which transnational working groups can be quickly recruited for participation in ADCs. This is especially important for women and young professionals who usually have less transnational business contacts. In a White Paper we inform policymakers about the project results and provide recommendations how the internationalisation of careers, equal treatment and the Green Deal goals can be achieved best in architecture.

Our consortium reaches over 580,000 architects across Europe who benefit from the project results.

## Editorial

Architectural design competitions (ADCs) are currently in decline in Europe both quantitatively and qualitatively. Procurers often use price-based forms of procurement instead of quality-oriented procedures. durations. Price and duration are important aspects for choosing a procedure and there are long lasting prejudices, that ADCs lead to more costs and result in longer project durations. This is a crucial misunderstanding. ARCH-E's consortium gathered data, that clearly show that ADCs are an excellent tool to ensure not only architectural quality but also cost-efficiency. An Italian analysis of 300 projects realised through different forms of procurement, clearly showed that prejudices against ADCs are unfound because compared to other procedures they are, in most cases, even superior in view to project costs, project duration and quality<sup>1</sup>. This is why the ARCH-E consortium clearly recommends ADCs as the most efficient tool for procuring architectural services.

This directly relates to many current European policy that are based on trying to ensure the best architectural solutions to societal problems. The Affordable Housing Package, that is trying to fight the housing crisis, stresses the importance of high-quality, innovative, sustainable and excellent solutions for the built environment to reach this aim. Of course, these are complex challenges that can only be based on quality-based procurement procedures, such as the use of ADCs.

The current approach of the European commission for Council Recommendations on the New European Bauhaus principles brings the NEB quality approach to the level of the members states. Following these recommendations will also require the use of ADC as a tool to ensure the best solutions for the built environment.

In this context it is also important to mention that ADCs have proved to be an important tool to enhance professional mobility in Europe in the field of architecture and to provide market access for young professionals and for micro-enterprises. The skills portability initiative as well as the planned construction services act are currently striving for solutions to enhance professional mobility by different measures with a focus on simplifying professional recognition. In practice, the lack of market access is a much bigger mobility hindrance than the existing recognition procedures, therefore it is important to put a focus on access tool such as ADCs

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<sup>1</sup> [After the Project](#), a study initialised and commissioned by CNAPPC

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that considerably contribute to unleashing the full potential of young and mobile professionals and small professional entities.

Despite such clear results on the benefits of ADCs, especially small communes are still reluctant to use ADCs and often choose procedures that are not adequate for procuring intellectual planning services, that require specific approaches in order to find the best projects.

To fully exploit an ADC's potential for all stakeholders involved, the ARCH-E consortium recommends a set of standards – such as anonymity, accessibility for all qualified architects - regardless of their office's economical capacity or references - and other principles - to guarantee a fair and successful competition for the best project. The complete list of recommendations by the ARCH-E consortium is to be found in the ARCH-E White Paper <sup>2</sup>. As each project context is unique, there is not one ADC procedure that fits all building programmes and situations. Therefore, the ARCH-E consortium presents exemplary ADC procedures that meet high standards, are remarkable in at least one aspect and lead to exceptional results. Nevertheless, because no project can be perfect, it was agreed to talk about "good" and not "best" practice examples. But rest assured that the listed projects are examples worth emulating at any time.

The approach of presenting a collection of diverse good practice examples in ADC procedures highlights how adaptable ADC procedures can be to find the best project for its specific context.

Each ARCH-E consortium member selected one procedure to be included in the Map on ADCs <sup>3</sup>, an ARCH-E publication realised following the lead of TU/e, namely Grazia Tona, Torsten Schröder and Juliette Bekkering. The present collection adds two projects selected by UIA, three by ACE and one by ARCH-E's cooperation project UREHERIT.

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<sup>2</sup> The [ARCH-E White Paper](#) is available in eight languages.

<sup>3</sup> The [ARCH-E Map on ADCs](#) is available in seven languages

The selection of good practices both addresses frequent problems and how to solve or avoid them in the first place, as well as potentials. Topics addressed and discussed in the White Paper's recommendations reappear here in practice in the selected examples:

- How to lower high workloads for architects participating in ADCs
- Integrating public participation processes into anonymous ADC procedures
- Making ADC procedures accessible to all architects by avoiding turnover thresholds and required references, that are not reflecting an office's capacity to plan nor its innovative potential, and in consequence including young and small architectural offices
- How to eradicate or at least mitigate barriers and hurdles in participating in ADCs abroad
- Finding innovative projects for refitting building stock
- Using ADC procedures as ideal instrument to demonstrate transparency and heighten the acceptance of projects among citizens
- Finding innovative solutions to questions of sustainability

The described projects are exemplary for Europe's professional, diverse competition scene. With this publication and many other activities, the ARCH-E consortium wants to contribute to enhancing the number of ADCs in Europe and hopes to inspire municipalities and other procurers to use ADCs as the ideal tool for quality-based procurement more often and thus enjoy the benefit of more excellent and cost-efficient projects.

**Daniel Fügenschuh**

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President of BKZT, ARCH-E lead partner*

# 17 Good Practice Examples in ADCs

1.	Cooperated ADCs in Austria: The Case of Graz University Library .....	11
2.	Slovenian ADC Regulation: The Extension of the Plečnik's Baragova Seminary .....	13
3.	“Een Nieuwe Bouwcultuur”: The Case of Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle .....	15
4.	SIA Ordnung 142: Regulation and Tools of the Swiss ADC System .....	17
5.	From Idea to Plan: The Urban Transformation of the Former Military Barracks in Lušćić .....	19
6.	IMPSOL Competition Series: The Case of 85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà .....	21
7.	Architectural Heritage and Innovation: The New Educational Building for the Health Sciences Faculty of Semmelweis University .....	23

8.	Transparency through Participation: The Luise Büchner Educational Campus .....	25
9.	Fostering Community and Creativity: Lemba Culture Village .....	27
10.	Challenges and Innovation in Czech ADCs: Lessons from the Chýně–Hostivice Community School .....	29
11.	An Experimental Rapid Design Competition: ROTUNDA Pavilion for Aarhus City of Culture .....	31
12.	Transforming a Decades-Abandoned Structure: The Centre for the Meeting of Cultures in Lublin .....	33
13.	A Private Competition Envisioning Communal Housing: Housing Cooperative “Lugar Comum” .....	35
14.	International architectural design competition for the National Concert Hall: “Tautos namai” .....	37
15.	Finding a Contemporary Approach to an Historically Sensitive Site: Katajanokan Laituri .....	40
16.	Open international architectural competition for an adaptive technical design: “Future school for Ukraine” .....	43
17.	Public Participation Process: Lido Stainz (Freibad Stainz) .....	46

## 1. Cooperated ADCs in Austria: The Case of Graz University Library



Figure 1: View of Graz University Library extension. Photo credits: Michael Kopp (Pixabay)

Location	Graz (Austria)
Year of competition launch	2015
Contracting Authority	Public Contracting Authority: BIG Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft mbH, Vienna, AT
Competition Organisers / Management	ADC organised in cooperation with the Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers
Winning Team / Architect	Atelier Thomas Pucher ZT GmbH (architect) Bollinger and Grohmann ZT GmbH (structural engineer)
Type of ADC procedure	Open ADC, single stage
Number of entries	35
Realisation	Realised (2017-2019)

## The Cooperation with the Federal Chamber as a Good Practice in ADC Regulation and Organisation

The Architectural Design Competition for Graz University Library was launched to renovate the library building of Karl-Franzens University. The contracting authority for this project was the Federal Agency Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft (BIG). This agency is one of the most experienced parties in the organisation of ADCs and commissioning of public projects in Austria and has a long-standing consensus with the Federal Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers. BIG launched an open ADC with the cooperation of the Federal Chamber, which allowed the participation of a broad number of teams (35 entries), hence, a large variety of design approaches for the given complex task. Thanks to the experienced and bold attitude of the jury, an outstanding architectural solution was selected. The winning design responded to the task by demolishing selected sections of the structure and exposing the original classical building, which had already been extended several times. A larger interior space was created through a vertical extension. This long glass block cantilevers over the building's new main entrance, while creating a canopy for a new public square below. The design is a symbiosis of old and new from the urban planning level to its architectural details. The cooperation of contracting authorities with Federal or Regional Chambers in Austria is not compulsory, but, as this case shows, it guarantees several advantages for the fair and successful management of ADCs. First of all, cooperated ADCs require the mandatory application of the Austrian competition standards (WSA 2010) throughout the process, which represents a legally proven and procedurally reliable regulatory framework. In addition, cooperation also entails the nomination of independent, experienced judges by the local ADC work groups of the Chamber, which ensures a fair process for the participation of qualified teams and the selection of best design outcomes, as proven by the case of Graz University Library.

## 2. Slovenian ADC Regulation: The Extension of the Plečnik's Baragova Seminary



**Figure 2:** Winning design for the extension of the Plečnik's Baragova Seminary. Image credits: Denis Hitrec.

Location	Ljubljana (Slovenia)
Year of competition launch	2023
Contracting Authority	Public Contracting Authority: Municipality of Ljubljana
Competition Organisers / Management	Chamber of Architecture and Spatial planning of Slovenia (ZAPS)
Winning Team / Architect	Matej Vozlič, Denis Hitrec, Tadej Urh, Anja Rudof, Zala Babič (architecture) Urška Kristina Škerl (landscape design)
Type of ADC procedure	Open competition, 1 stage
Number of entries	9
Realisation	Not realised yet

## Elimination Vis à Vis Evaluation: A Good Practice in ADC Regulation

The extension of Plečnik's Baragova Seminary is an example of an ADC that follows the Slovenian legislation on open competitions. In Slovenia, ADCs are mandatory for public contracting authorities under specific conditions of project value and area surface. The project task for the extension of the Plečnik's Baragova Seminary consists of the renovation of the cultural centre building (a monument of national importance), the addition of a new modern theatre with underground garages, and a comprehensive arrangement of the outdoor areas including a new square. For such a complex project, compliance with the Rules for Competitions and the application of the ZAPS (Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia) Competition Quality Standard guaranteed high-quality management of the competition process. This renders the case an example of good practice in ADCs for several reasons. First, despite the high level of complexity, the client, in cooperation with ZAPS, opted for the organisation of an open ADC in which reference projects were not requested as a condition for participation, thus facilitating access for all professionals. The role of ZAPS, in this case, was crucial to use the consultation with the client as an opportunity to advocate in favour of an open ADC, while offering the adequate professional assistance throughout the process. Second, a clear separation between elimination criteria (timeliness, anonymity, references etc.) and evaluation criteria in the assessment of design proposals (a standard in ZAPS ADCs) aided the client in selecting the best solution, even in cases of deviations from the competition brief. In most Slovenian ADCs, the project's site is strictly constrained and characterised by the maximum program distribution, which undergoes a strict revision through an urban planning test prior to the competitions. As a result, the ADC solution must take into account restrictions, along with the client's directions regarding the program. Lack of compliance with these numerous urban and programmatic restrictions, however, is not an automatic elimination criterion (usually defined as reasons for elimination or mandatory content requirements in other EU-country ADCs). This allows the jury to assess proposals with a more holistic approach based exclusively on evaluation criteria. Specifically, in the case of Baragova's Seminary, designers could propose a solution that deviated in certain elements from the substantive directions of the brief, provided the future possibility of obtaining a building permit without significant design revisions. Without this clear distinction between elimination and evaluation criteria, the winning project, unanimously selected by the jury as the best solution, could not have been awarded the first prize.

### 3. “Een Nieuwe Bouwcultuur”: The Case of Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle



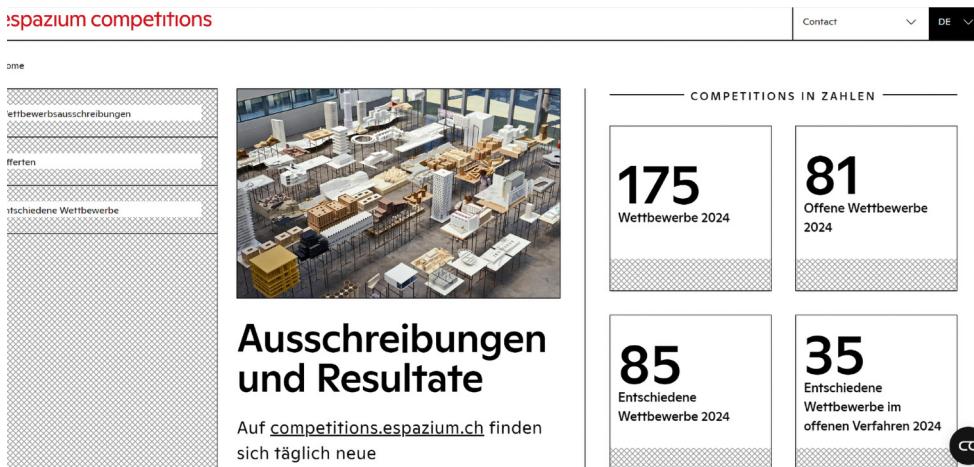
**Figure 3:** Winning design for the Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle. Image Credits: Joost Emmerik, Studio Nauta, Mulder Zonderland.

Location	Zwolle (The Netherlands)
Year of competition launch	2022
Contracting Authority	Public Contracting Authority: Municipality of Zwolle
Competition Organisers / Management	College van Rijksbouwmeester en Rijksadviseurs (Board of Government Architect and Advisors)
Winning Team / Architect	Studio Nauta & Mulder Zonderland i.s.m. Schipper Bosch, Solid Timber, Studio Joost Emmerik, Treetek, DWA, BC Materials, and And The People
Type of ADC procedure	ADCs with preselection, 2 stages
Number of entries	5 entries (first stage) and 3 entries (second stage)
Realisation	Not realised yet

## Innovating Tasks, Requirements, and Criteria: A Good Practice in ADC Sustainability

The competition for the Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle is part of the program “*Een Nieuwe Bouwcultuur*” (A New Building Culture), initiated by the Dutch *College van Rijksbouwmeester en Rijksadviseurs* (Board of Government Architect and Advisors). The program consists of a series of multidisciplinary “research by design” ADCs, which are a direct response to the ambitions of the New European Bauhaus (NEB). The competition task for the Nieuwe Veemarkt fosters a transformative approach to sustainable neighbourhood development, placing innovation at its core. Moving beyond conventional technicalities of calculations and certifications, it makes room for visionary perspectives. Accordingly, design proposals can embrace diverse innovation opportunities, such as 1) the use of biobased and locally available construction materials, 2) context-specific solutions aimed at long-term adaptation and future expansion, 3) a nature-inclusive design, and 4) multidisciplinary collaborations. Moreover, the sustainability ambition determines a revision of the pre-selection methods. In this ADC, as well as in the competition series, pre-selection is open to all licensed architects and is based on the anonymous assessment of a three-page portfolio according to criteria of innovation, imagination, affinity with the task, and team composition. There are no restrictions related to the projects’ realisation, typology, size, or costs. This means that references are evaluated based on quality and design potential. Such an approach to pre-selection facilitates access to public commissions for small size and young emerging professionals, even via a non-open competition. However, the novel character of the *Een Nieuwe Bouwcultuur* program inevitably causes it to encounter some obstacles: from the scepticism of professionals who see it as producing exclusively idea competitions, with little chance of being fully implemented, to legislative limitations in current policy instruments. The long-term ambition of the program involves increasing awareness within society, as well as in the professional field, and influencing relevant authorities in the elimination of policy bottlenecks to move towards a new building culture.

## 4. SIA Ordnung 142: Regulation and Tools of the Swiss ADC System



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Espazium Competitions website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Contact' and 'DE'. Below the navigation, there is a sidebar with links for 'Home', 'Wettbewerbsausschreibungen', 'Offerten', and 'Entschiedene Wettbewerbe'. The main content area features a large image of a construction site with many building models and a text box with the following information:

**Ausschreibungen und Resultate**  
Auf [competitions.espazium.ch](https://competitions.espazium.ch) finden sich täglich neue

On the right side, there is a section titled 'COMPETITIONS IN ZAHLEN' with four boxes containing the following data:

- 175** Wettbewerbe 2024
- 81** Offene Wettbewerbe 2024
- 85** Entschiedene Wettbewerbe 2024
- 35** Entschiedene Wettbewerbe im offenen Verfahren 2024

**Figure 4:** Snapshot of the Platform “Espazium Competitions”. Link to the platform: <https://competitions.espazium.ch/de>. Accessed on: 09.07.2024

Location	Switzerland
Year of competition launch	—
Contracting Authority	Public authorities at all levels Private enterprises
Competition Organisers / Management	Contract authority, usually, in cooperation with External ADC advisors
Winning Team / Architect	—
Type of ADC procedure	Open ADCs, ADCs with prequalification, project and idea ADCs
Number of entries	—
Realisation	Based on SIA 142, realisation contract with the 1st prize winner team (project ADCs)

## The Swiss SIA Framework as a Good Practice in ADC Regulation

National ADC systems aim at establishing a comprehensive procedural framework, adaptable to a wide range of design tasks. This only succeeds if a solution-based approach is the standard procedure for procuring architectural services. The Swiss SIA Regulation 142 (SIA/142) and its related tools are presented as an example of such a framework. SIA/142 constitutes the regulatory basis for Swiss ADCs, in which the fundamental principles of anonymity, non-discrimination, equal treatment, transparency, and an independent jury are respected and every step of the competition procedure is detailed. The provisions of SIA/142 are linked to the Federal Law on Public Procurement 2021 (BöB) as a subordinate regulatory framework. Due to this seamless integration, SIA/142 is generally accepted as the national ADC standard and applied in most public and private procedures. SIA/142 is regularly updated by the ADC Commission of the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA), through a consultation process open to all its members, builders organisations, and other associations. Based on SIA/142, a standard procedure for a municipal building (e.g. education or sports facility) would consist of an EU-level open ADC, with an average of 30-40 participant teams of architects and landscape architects. The jury (made of a maximum of 13 members with the majority being external independent experts) assesses the proposals based on architectural quality and functional, ecological, and economic criteria. Additional SIA/142 provisions regulate the appropriate level of elaboration, a fair prize amount, and the obligation to commission the first prize winner, regardless of experience. The SIA supports the correct application of SIA/142 through several tools: online guides including the description of a standard brief and procedure timeline,<sup>4</sup> a free review process, ensuring compliance with SIA/142 and resulting in the application of a formal stamp on the ADC document,<sup>5</sup> and SIA's procurement counselling website, which advises contracting authorities about the most advantageous procurement solutions for design tasks.<sup>6</sup> Finally, a dedicated platform provides access to national ADC contract notices.<sup>7</sup> The national ADC system, as part of the national procurement system, is subject to a procurement monitor for the building sector,<sup>8</sup> which allows for the identification of ADC trends for different regions of Switzerland. These tools, along with SIA's magazines, facilitate the application of SIA regulations, support the correct implementation of ADCs, and also guarantee high visibility for the winning ideas within the professional community.

<sup>4</sup> [https://shop.sia.ch/normenwerk/ingenieur/142\\_2009\\_d/D/Product](https://shop.sia.ch/normenwerk/ingenieur/142_2009_d/D/Product)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.sia.ch/de/cms/dienstleistungen/programmbegutachtung>

<sup>6</sup> [www.wegweiser-planungsbeschaffung.ch](http://www.wegweiser-planungsbeschaffung.ch)

<sup>7</sup> <https://competitions.espazium.ch/de>

<sup>8</sup> [www.bauenschweiz.ch/de/vergabemonitor/](http://www.bauenschweiz.ch/de/vergabemonitor/)

## 5. From Idea to Plan: The Urban Transformation of the Former Military Barracks in Luščić

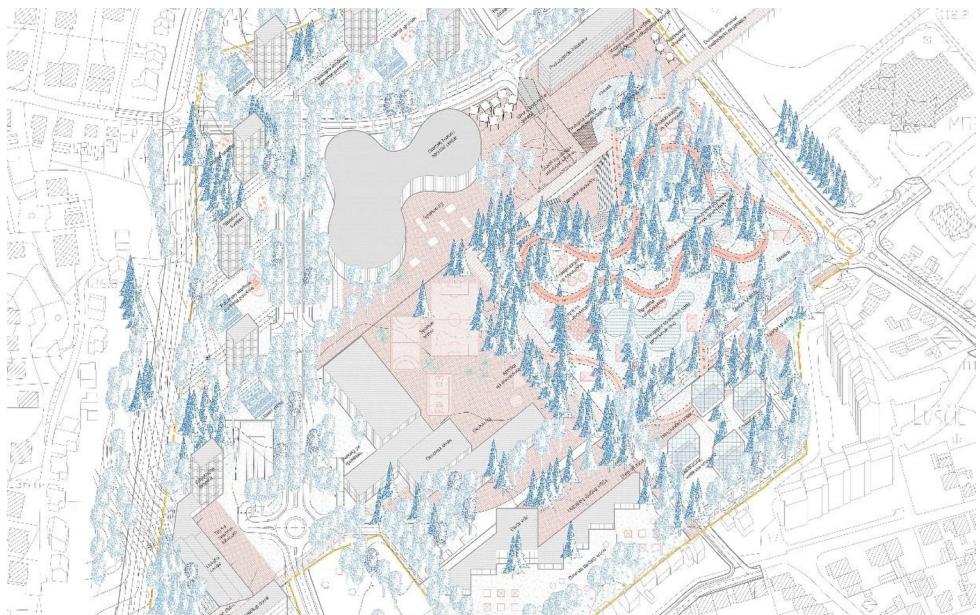


Figure 5: Urban Development Plan Luščić Centre. Image credits: Municipality of Karlovac.

Location	Karlovac (Croatia)
Year of competition launch	2019
Contracting Authority	Public Contracting Authority: City of Karlovac
Competition Organisers / Management	EUROPAN Croatia
Winning Team / Architect	Krešimir Renić, Hana Dašić, Iva Erić, Jana Horvat, Ria Tursan
Type of ADC procedure	Open ADC, 1 stage
Number of entries	10
Realisation	Urban Development Plan Luščić-Centre adopted in 2022

## EUROPAN as a Good Practice in ADC Accessibility for Young European Architects

In 2019, the city of Karlovac launched an Architectural Design Competition as part of EUROPAN 15, aimed at the urban regeneration of the former Luščić barracks. This competition welcomed teams from across Europe, led by at least one qualified architect, with the flexibility to include additional professionals in the discipline of architecture or related fields, as well as students with bachelor's or master's degrees. The sole age requirement specified by the EUROPAN framework was that each team member must be under 40 years old at the submission deadline. The implementation of an ADC served as a basis for drafting the Urban Development Plan Luščić-Centre. This was possible thanks to the initiative of the organiser, EUROPAN Croatia, which set up an advisory board to support Karlovac in implementing the winning design into the urban development plan. The members of the advisory board included representatives of EUROPAN Croatia, Karlovac, the local architects association, the jury, and the author of the ADC brief. From an early stage, the local community was also involved in the process, with activities that took place after the award decision and before the drafting of the urban development plan. This elaborate participatory process resulted in the high-quality Urban Development Plan Luščić-Centre, whose design idea focuses on sustainability and public facilities. In 2022, the urban plan finally came into force. The experience of the Luščić ADC constitutes a good example of how the innovative ideas of young European architects, formulated for an open competition, can be developed in practice without compromising the winning design concept. To make this possible, a well-managed, participatory, and collaborative process involving all relevant stakeholders (from public authorities to the local community) is paramount.

## 6. IMPSOL Competition Series: The Case of 85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà



**Figure 6:** Interior view of the 85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà by Peris+Toral Arquitectes. Photo credits: © José Hervia.

Location	Barcelona Metropolitan Area (Spain)
Year of competition launch	2017
Contracting Authority	Public Contracting Authority: Municipality of Barcelona
Competition Organisers / Management	Metropolitan Institute for Land Development and Property Management (IMPSOL AMB) of Barcelona
Winning Team / Architect	Peris + Toral Arquitectes
Type of ADC procedure	Open ADCs 2 stages
Number of entries	57 (first stage)
Realisation	2021

## The IMPSOL System as a Good Practice in the Accessibility and Fairness of Spanish ADCs

The selected project “85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà” by Peris+Toral Arquitectes is probably the most outstanding of the numerous public social housing initiatives promoted and constructed by the Metropolitan Institute for Land Development and Property Management of Barcelona (IMPSOL AMB) since 2017, counting 26 national and international awards for its architectural excellence. The case of Cornellà serves to show how the IMPSOL system fosters a change in the Spanish procurement of architectural services, by promoting access to competitions and fair conditions of participation to young offices, and contributing to improving the quality of social housing architecture. To be eligible for participation in IMPSOL ADCs, the only condition is a certificate from the Chamber of Architects and a commitment to obtaining a civil liability insurance proportioned to the project’s value. Appropriate technical and economic solvency is requested after winning the ADCs, rather than as eligibility criteria for participation. For young offices, this means the possibility of collaboration with specialised professionals at a later stage. Accessibility to emerging architects is also encouraged through the two-stage structure of competitions, which reduces the size of a practices’ investment. While, at the first stage, the submission is constrained to one A3 sheet, the teams advancing to the second stage receive financial compensation to engage in a more detailed design phase. The commitment of IMPSOL ADCs to high architectural quality is emphasised by criteria of selection that prioritise design quality, energy efficiency, and the quality of life for future residents, incorporating a gender perspective. Operating within the national procurement framework and in line with the Spanish Law on Quality in Architecture, IMPSOL develops a public tender system with an ADC that ensures high-quality projects and constructions funded by public money. The realised case of 85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà and its recognised architectural excellence proves that the IMPSOL system sets the example for public administrations in the promotion of high-quality architecture through a positive application of existing legal instruments.

## 7. Architectural Heritage and Innovation: The New Educational Building for the Health Sciences Faculty of Semmelweis University



**Figure 7:** Interior view of the Health Sciences Faculty of Semmelweis University. Photo credits: © Barta Bálint.

Location	Budapest (Hungary) VIII. district (Downtown) Vas str. 17. and Szentkirályi str. 12.
Year of competition launch	2016
Public Contracting Authority	Executive Board of Procurement of Semmelweis University
Competition Organisers / Management	MÉK Nonprofit Kft.
Winning Team / Architect	Studio Fragment (Imre BÓDI, Zsolt FRIKKER)
Type of ADC procedure	National, open, anonymous ADC 1 stage
Number of entries	15 entries
Realisation	Realised (2020-2022)

## A Quality-centred ADC as a Good Practice in the Preservation of Architectural Heritage

Semmelweis University is a leading institution of higher education in the area of medicine and health sciences in Hungary and the Central European region. In 2016, the Faculty of Health Sciences launched an open Architectural Design Competition for designing the extension to the historical educational building from the early 1900s. The competition task included the creation of seminar rooms, demonstration rooms, and two large lecture halls. The project site, in the “palace quarter” of Budapest is characterised by historical and architectural relevance, due to the presence of palace-style *maisons*, as well as important cultural and educational institutions of the 19th and early 20th century. The competition was won by Studio Fragment, which proposed the integration of the new and existing volumes into a coherent complex. The design principle was based on a sophisticated accordance with its environs, obtained through the façade rhythm of geometries and shadows recalling Budapest’s historical buildings, and the light and neutral materials generating a clear and resting interior atmosphere. The jury, composed of well-known architectural professionals and the Chief Architect of the VIII District, assessed the entries, considering both quantitative and qualitative principles. Regarding the quality of concept and design, special emphasis was given to the spatial connections with the existing building and its surroundings and the integration into the downtown environment, solving the streetscape of Szentkirályi Street. Energy saving and sustainability strategies were also relevant criteria in the jury evaluation. This case shows how a quality-centred approach in ADCs extends beyond the mere architectural project. It aims at the improvement of its surroundings, with attention to the city’s cultural and historical values, rendering the ADC a relevant instrument for both innovation and preservation of architectural heritage.

## 8. Transparency through Participation: The Luise Büchner Educational Campus



**Figure 8:** Citizens' dialogue with two of the prize-winners of the Luise Büchner Educational Campus, 10 October 2016. © Bürogemeinschaft Sippel. Buff, Stuttgart.

Location	Darmstadt (Hesse), Germany
Year of competition launch	2016
Contracting Authority	Public Contracting Authority: Magistrate of the City of Darmstadt
Competition Organisers / Management	Darmstädter Stadtentwicklungs GmbH & Co.KG (DSE)
Winning Team / Architect	Waechter + Waechter Architekten BDA PartmbB (architecture) foundation 5+ architekten landschaftsarchitekten (landscape architecture) merz kley partner (structural planning)
Type of ADC procedure	Non-open, interdisciplinary ADC according to RPW (Guidelines for Design Contests)
Number of entries	28 entries
Realisation	Realised (2021)

## Citizen Participation as a Good Practice in ADC Transparency

The decision of the city of Darmstadt was to transform the Lincoln area, a former American military site, into a new residential neighbourhood with an inclusive educational centre, providing space for up to 5,000 inhabitants. The vision for the renovation of this site was to create a “city of short distances”. The ADC for the neighbourhood centre combined open space and building planning with the architectural project for the Luise Büchner Educational Campus, the core element of the Lincoln conversion area. In the preparation and implementation of the ADC, the citizens of Darmstadt were invited to take an active part in the process from its outset. The first occasion for their involvement occurred in November 2015, before the tendering phase. In this public participation event, citizens not only received information about the ADC but also had the opportunity to actively engage in the planning for the neighbourhood centre by sharing comments and suggestions for improving the draft competition brief. They could also express further ideas on the design to be created later through the ADCs. The insights from the citizens were then examined by the administration for a revision of the task. During the competition phase, four citizens were selected by lot, including one young representative and one member of the “WIR auf Lincoln!” initiative. These citizens took part in the jury as experts without voting rights. The various initiatives of citizen participation implemented in the preparation and development of this ADC represent a good example of how the principle of transparency can translate into the practice of design competitions, resulting in architectural projects that enhance community inclusion and belonging.

## 9. Fostering Community and Creativity: Lemba Culture Village



**Figure 9:** Aerial view of Lemba Culture Village. Photo credits: © Charis Solomou.

Location	Lemba, Paphos District (Cyprus)
Year of competition launch	2016
Contracting Authority	Public Contracting Authority: Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth
Competition Organisers / Management	Cultural Services and Cyprus Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth
Winning Team / Architect	Spyrou Spyrou, Charis Christodoulou, Angela Zisimopoulou and Charis Solomou (architects team)
Type of ADC procedure	Open ADC 1 stage
Number of entries	40 entries
Realisation	Realised (2022-2024)

## The Benefits of High-quality ADCs for the Entire Community

The Lemba Culture Village was an ambitious project designed to cultivate a vibrant hub for artistic creation and education. This small-scale initiative embodies the principles of Baukultur, presenting the cultural value of a high-quality, socially integrated, and sustainable built environment, and enhancing a more inclusive community. The winning design fosters a genuine village atmosphere that encourages interaction through the thoughtful arrangement of workshops and guesthouses for Cypriot students and international artists. Common courtyards facilitate connection and interaction, opening spaces for art education and creation. The flexible configuration of both indoor and outdoor spaces supports the organisation of local and regional cultural events, providing for the opportunity of meaningful encounters with the local community and Cypriot society. The development of this ADC benefited architectural professionals, especially emerging architects, by providing a platform to showcase their talents to a wider audience. Additionally, the competition process in Lemba fostered community and user inclusion, by allowing residents to contribute to the project's development. This collaborative approach enhanced community identification and a sense of belonging even before the project's completion, and also enabled designers and organisers to better understand the community's needs. The Lemba Culture Village project demonstrates the potential of cultural villages as models for community-based tourism. The initiative aims to establish similar cultural villages in Cyprus and other countries to preserve and promote local culture, arts, and crafts. This ADC not only enriches the living environment but also serves as a method for creating long-term, resilient, and sustainable cities.

## 10. Challenges and Innovation in Czech ADCs: Lessons from the Chýně–Hostivice Community School



**Figure 10:** Visualisation of the Chýně–Hostivice Community School's exterior. © Dousek–Záborský.

Location	Chýně (Czech Republic)
Year of competition launch	2021
Contracting Authority	Public Contracting Authority: Union of municipalities Chýně and Hostivice
Competition Organisers / Management	Ing. arch. Radek Janoušek / Ing. Karla Kupillíková / Ing. arch. Tomáš Zdvíhal
Winning Team / Architect	ov architekti s.r.o. Jiří Opočenský a Štěpán Valouch
Type of ADC procedure	Non-open ADC with pre-selection 1 stage
Number of entries	6 entries
Realisation	Construction began in 2024

## Diversifying ADC Formats for the Benefit of Different Stakeholders

The competition for the community school of Chýně–Hostivice, a voluntary association of municipalities, is the second ADC for a new elementary school in a few years. The first open competition resulted in a negative experience, leading to extreme complications during the realisation of the winning design by a French team. In addition to the past ADC challenges, earlier mistakes in spatial planning, along with the rapid development of the village and the influence of developers have contributed to put pressure on the plan for a new school. Despite the tight schedule and the previous unsatisfactory experience, the association of municipalities decided to implement another architectural competition. This time, however, contracting authorities tested a different format of ADC: a non-open competition with the pre-selection of six architectural teams. This choice was meant to ensure a high-quality design, sufficient experience of the professional teams, and a contained time commitment. The preparation and implementation of the competition procedure took approximately six months. After this process, the signing of the contract with the winning team and the stages of project documentation followed in a short time. The project construction started within two years after the award decision; a unique case for a project of 30 million EUR that positively changed clients' prejudice on the duration and complexity of competitions. Both schools, designed and realised through an ADC, are expected to serve not only pupils but the entire community, functioning as public buildings for all citizens. This example demonstrates that ADCs are closely linked to contextual, economic, and time needs. Therefore, it is important to carefully calibrate the selection of the right procedure to the needs of each case, considering the possibility of varying competition formats.

## 11. An Experimental Rapid Design Competition: ROTUNDA Pavilion for Aarhus City of Culture



**Figure 11:** Visual representation of the pavilion from an aerial view. Image credits: © Marie Joo Thorup.

Location	Aarhus (Denmark)
Year of competition launch	2017
Contracting Authority	Aarhus Municipality
Competition Organisers / Management	Danish Association of Architects' Local Branch East Jutland
Winning Team / Architect	MAA Marie Joo Thorup and Troels Skov-Carlsen
Type of ADC procedure	Open 100-hour competition for all members of the Danish Association of Architects
Number of entries	59 architects, landscape architects and designers
Realisation	2017

## A 100-Hour Architectural Design Competition Redefining Public Space and Sustainability

The Rethink Arkitektur pavilion in Åparken, Aarhus was realised through an open Architectural Design Competition (ADC) launched in January 2017 by Akademisk Arkitektforening's Østjylland chapter in partnership with Akademisk Arkitektforening. The competition responded to Aarhus being designated European Capital of Culture 2017 under the theme "Let's Rethink", which aimed to stimulate new ways of using architecture to engage the public and challenge conventional building practices. Unlike traditional long-term commissions, the ADC was structured as a 100-hour rapid design competition, open to all members of the Danish Association of Architects. Participants were asked to develop proposals that would rethink architecture's role in public space, engage with resource consumption and reuse, and function as a versatile spatial framework for activities such as debates, film screenings, concerts, exhibitions, and social gatherings during the cultural year. The brief encouraged conceptual depth as well as practical realisability within a defined budget and timeframe, leading to a wide range of inventive responses from the 58 submitted entries. The jury selected "Rotunda" by architects MAA Marie Joo Thorup and Troels Skov-Carlsen as the winning design. Rotunda is a simple, 6-metre-high circular pavilion that transforms the park's landscape by framing outdoor space without enclosing it, inviting the city into the pavilion as much as the pavilion into the city. Its structure of timber frames clad with panels made from 100 % recycled beverage cartons exemplifies the competition's emphasis on material reuse and sustainability. Visitors circulate through and around the form, integrating everyday paths with event programming, and the pavilion becomes both backdrop and active participant in park life. The ADC's rapid, open format encouraged experimentation and broad professional engagement while anchoring proposals to a clear cultural and social mission. By emphasising resource awareness, public activation, and architectural imagination, the competition enabled a temporary installation that not only served the Aarhus 2017 cultural agenda but also sparked discussion about sustainability and public space design in architecture.

## 12. Transforming a Decades-Abandoned Structure: The Centre for the Meeting of Cultures in Lublin



**Figure 12:** View of the main façade of the Centre for the Meeting of Cultures. Image credits: © Marcin Czechowicz .

Location	Lublin (Poland)
Year of competition launch	2008
Contracting Authority	Marshal of the Lubelskie Voivodeship
Competition Organisers / Management	Marshal of the Lubelskie Voivodeship
Winning Team / Architect	Bolesław Stelmach, Marek Zarzeczny, Rafał Szmigelski, Sławomir Kłos
Type of ADC procedure	Open international competition 1 stage
Number of entries	21
Realisation	2016

## How Lublin's Theatre Competition Reimagined an Unfinished Landmark

The Architectural Design Competition for Lublin's long-unfinished "Theatre under Construction" was conceived as a decisive instrument to transform a decades-abandoned structure into a region-defining cultural centre. Announced in 2008 by the Lubelskie Voivodeship, the ADC aimed to obtain the best architectural, functional and acoustic concept for completing the building and redesigning the adjacent Theatre Square. Its special character lay in addressing an exceptionally complex task: integrating 44 years of partial construction, structural decay and historical layers into a coherent future-oriented cultural institution. The procedure was open and project-oriented, inviting multidisciplinary teams to propose integral solutions for architecture, urban design and cultural programming. A key requirement was the creation of an open, universally accessible cultural hub accommodating the Centre for the Meeting of Cultures, the modernized Music Theatre, the Wieniawski Philharmonic and a wide spectrum of public activities. The brief emphasised not only technical excellence and acoustic performance, but also the ability to reconcile old and new, preserve unfinished structures and shape a meaningful public realm. The ADC's most distinctive feature was the demand for a strong internal public spine—the future "Alley of Cultures"—intended to connect all programmatic zones and act as the building's social heart. This requirement triggered solutions in which architecture, circulation and cultural participation became inseparable. The winning project by Stelmach i Partnerzy integrated monolithic concrete additions with preserved brick ruins, introduced the multimedia façade and designed new urban elements such as the Gutenberg Barrows and rooftop endemic gardens. Through its rigorous, holistic brief and its emphasis on participatory cultural use, the ADC enabled the transformation of an unfinished ruin into one of Poland's largest and most vibrant cultural infrastructures, turning architectural completion into a civic and symbolic act.

## 13. A Private Competition Envisioning Communal Housing: Housing Cooperative “Lugar Comum”



**Figure 13:** Renderings of the residential façade and view from the exterior communal corridor. Image credits: © Tiago Filipe Pedrosa Martins, Nuno Miguel Pinto e Costa, Daniel João Lobo Carvalho.

Location	Maia (Portugal)
Year of competition launch	2025
Contracting Authority	Private Contracting Authority: Cooperativa «Outeiro - Lugar Comum, Cooperativa de Habitação, CRL»
Competition Organisers / Management	Private Contracting Authority with the support of Portuguese Order of Architects – Northern Regional Section
Winning Team / Architect	Tiago Filipe Pedrosa Martins, Nuno Miguel Pinto e Costa, Daniel João Lobo Carvalho
Type of ADC procedure	Private open competition 1 stage
Number of entries	22
Realisation	Not realised yet

## **A pioneering design competition at a national level, which brought together, in a single stage, important themes such as Private Competitions, Housing Cooperatives and Community Life**

The architecture design competition for the Housing Cooperative was a pioneering initiative at a national level, as it brought together, in a single stage, several fundamental themes for the professional class of architects and for the Portuguese society in general, both procedural, technical and social in nature, such as Private Design Competitions, Housing Cooperatives, as one of the possible solution to respond effectively to the problem of housing access, and Community Living as a healthy and sustainable way of life, in an intergenerational and sharing relationship. The services for the development of this project could have been given directly to any project team. However, the promoter, believing that a joint reflection by architects would be an added value to the quality of life of the population, choose to launch a private architecture design competition, without having any legal obligation to do so. This competition, open to the entire competitive market (without prior qualification) and under anonymity of the competitors, had the technical support of the Portuguese Order of Architects – Northern Regional Section in organizing the design competition – rigorous analysis of the procedure documents, appointment of an experienced and impartial jury, definition of selection criteria adjusted to the program and appropriated and fair contractual conditions regarding the complexity of the object of the competition – whose collaboration encouraged a wide participation by national and international competitors, ensuring the credibility of the procedure and supporting its dissemination among the members of the Order of Architects. The main purpose of the competition was to find a set of design solutions that would respond appropriately and maturely to the urban, landscape and architectural exercise for the construction of a housing complex, involving buildings to be rehabilitated and built from scratch, with complementary shared services, under a housing cooperative regime. This project, developed in accordance with the legislation that regulates the Controlled Cost Housing, was intended to guarantee access to housing for a group of individuals and families who, despite having a stable and average economic situation, were unable to rent or buy quality housing in the present national economic context. At the same time, this project aimed to bring together people who wanted to live in community and in an environmentally responsible way. Once the competition process was complete, the Promoter will begin a dialogue with the three highest-ranked competitors to select the team that presented the best working methodology and architectural concept, in line with the cooperative's objectives, and subsequently offer a services contract for the development of the project.

## 14. International architectural design competition for the National Concert Hall: “Tautos namai”



**Figure 14:** Visualisation of the entrance façade of the National Concert Hall. Image credits: © Arquivio Architects.

Location	Vilnius (Lithuania)
Year of competition launch	2019
Contracting Authority	Vilnius City Municipality
Competition Organisers / Management	Architects Association of Lithuania
Winning Team / Architect	Arquivio (Spain)
Type of ADC procedure	Open international architectural competition (under Lithuanian Public Procurement Law)
Number of entries	305 registered participants, 248 submitted projects from 57 countries
Realisation	Ongoing

## A Signature UIA-UNESCO Architectural Design Competition under Public Procurement Constraints

The ambition of Vilnius City Municipality (the competition's Contracting Authority) was to build a Concert Hall that would not only fulfil the standards of a contemporary concert hall but would also become a landmark of quality architecture in the city and a symbol of European, democratic values. Therefore, an open international architectural design competition was chosen as the most efficient way to collect the best architectural ideas. Architects Association of Lithuania (AAL, the competition organizer), came up with the idea of a UIA-UNESCO competition. AAL has been a member of UIA for more than 20 years. Since 1956, when UNESCO ratified the regulations for international competitions in architecture and urban planning, UIA-UNESCO competitions have earned a reputation as high-standard, transparent and efficient procedures, resulting in quality design and innovation. The history of UIA-UNESCO competitions proves that this kind of procedure attracts the best architects from all the world and results in great architecture. Participation of local and foreign architects was very welcome in this competition, as it is not every day that one can design a concert hall of national importance and the city can build it.

The biggest challenge was to combine the quality competition characteristics with Lithuanian Public Procurement Law regulations. After long and tough discussions and negotiations between the AAL, the Public Procurement Office of Lithuania and the Public Procurement department of the city a way to realize the desired structure and procedure of the competition in accordance with the law, which is not adapted to design competitions, could be found.

On the practical side, dealing with the unprecedented quantity of entries (248 entries) was challenging. Other challenges included finding the venue for a public exhibition and managing the evaluation procedure, a process completed thanks to a very efficient and responsible jury work. With this competition, we have tried out some innovations in ADCs, done under the Public Procurement Law. For example, a minimum qualification and experience requirement was set to the participating teams, thus opening possibilities for many architectural teams to participate. A design price criterion was discarded, leaving only architectural quality criteria listed. The evaluation procedure ensured that the final result is reached unanimously by the discussions among the Jury members, and not by arithmetical calculations that usually lead to unsatisfactory results. Also, the Jury consisted only of professionals (usually, in Public Procurement competitions, representatives of institutions are involved in the Jury). This paved the way for

## 17 Good Practice Examples in ADCs

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a very professional and holistic evaluation. UIA endorsement brought incredible global visibility to the competition. Also - trust among the international community of architects. In this case, the UIA label really functioned as a proof that a competition will be transparent, fair and based on quality criteria. Finally, it was a huge educational activity: not only for AAL, as the organizers, but also for the Municipality and State institutions. The competition, endorsed by UIA, has set a precedent for quality design competitions and has had an impact on competition culture in Lithuania.

## 15. Finding a Contemporary Approach to an Historically Sensitive Site: Katajanokan Laituri

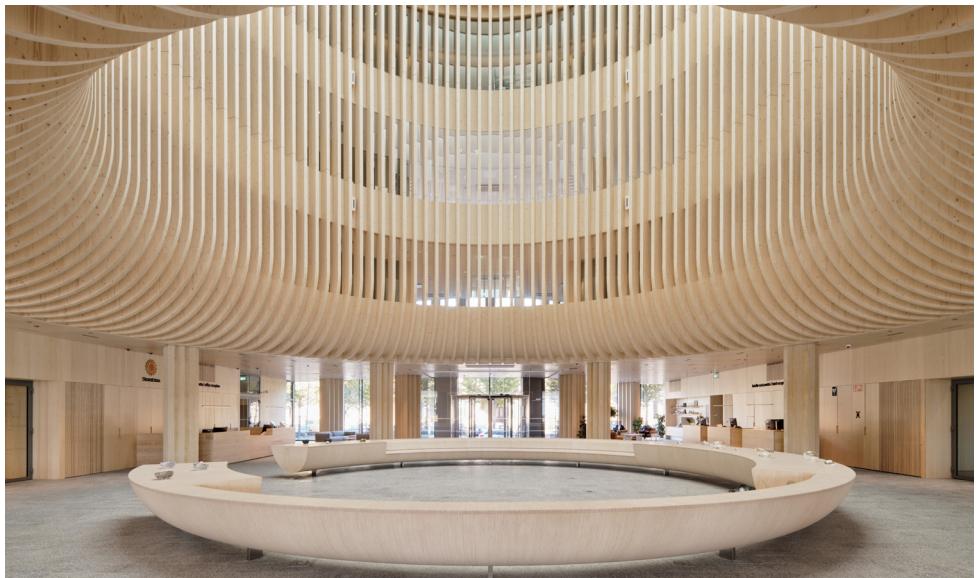


Figure 15: Interior view of the building lobby. Image credits: © Tuomas Uusheimo.

Location	Helsinki (Finland)
Year of competition launch	2020
Contracting Authority	City of Helsinki
Competition Organisers / Management	City of Helsinki, Mutual pension insurance company Varma, Stora Enso, Haahtela
Winning Team / Architect	Anttinen Oiva Architects
Type of ADC procedure	Invited international architectural design competition
Number of entries	6
Realisation	2021-2024 (construction work)

### Setting an example for using wood in the sustainable development of cities

Katajanokan Laituri project is based on the result of an invited international architectural design competition organized in 2020. The main objective of the architectural competition was to find a high-profile building for a historically sensitive site in Helsinki. Located in South Harbour, the site lies within a nationally significant cultural environment, forming part of Helsinki's long coastline and landscape of national value. Urban landscape criteria and constraints were therefore emphasized. Finding a unique, largely timber-built and feasible design option for the new hybrid function building, Stora Enso headquarters and a hotel, was one of the main focuses. As well as identifying flexible structural solutions, long lifespan, balanced approach to life cycle management, low carbon footprint, energy efficiency and technical and economical feasibility.

The competition jury consisted of representatives from the City of Helsinki, the Mutual pension insurance company Varma and Stora Enso, including an architect member selected by the Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA) on behalf of the design competition participants. The Jury was supported by a wide variety of specialists and experts concerning wood construction, fire safety, environmental sustainability, acoustics, landscape design and construction cost evaluation. SAFA has had a significant role in developing and organizing architectural competitions in Finland, being part of this competition as well.

The evaluation criteria for submissions consisted of quality in general, impact on cityscape with challenging preconditions, architectural merits, functional aspects and technical and financial topics. All these related to difficult foundation conditions, harsh maritime climate, low frequency ship noise, flood protection and adaptation to climate change. Ambitious objectives included immersive architecture, biophilic design principles, using natural materials and increasing nature's diversity and resilience in general. Anttilainen Oiva architects' entry "Spring" was selected as the winner of the competition and appointed as designer for the project.

Well prepared documents, the possibility for questions and a competition seminar for invited participants set a good starting point for the design competition proposals. Later, more detailed design briefs ensured open discussions, common understanding, high quality and fulfilling the ambitious objectives set by all participants along the whole project - from the competition period through city planning and building permit phase to design and building. The competition

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launched open public interaction with citizens and made it possible to develop the project quickly, with good quality despite a very demanding location. The project has received positive feedback from neighbors, citizens of Helsinki and has been awarded recently with national and international architectural prizes.

Katajanokan Laituri is a mixed-use building that pioneers the possibilities of wood construction, also among the very first large scale timber buildings in Finland, in a sensitive and historically layered urban context. As the first new building on Helsinki's formerly closed harbor waterfront, it marks the beginning of the area's transformation into an open public space.

## 16. Open international architectural competition for an adaptive technical design: “Future school for Ukraine”



**Figure 16:** View of the main entrance. Image credits: © Scandurra Studio.

Location	Vilnius (Lithuania)
Year of competition launch	2024
Contracting Authority	CPVA – Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Competition Organisers / Management	Architects Association of Lithuania
Winning Team / Architect	“Scandurra Studio Architettura” (Italy) and M. A. Vustianskyi (Ukraine)
Type of ADC procedure	Open international architectural competition (under Lithuanian Public Procurement Law)
Number of entries	15 entries from 11 countries
Realisation	Ongoing

## A Signature UIA-UNESCO Architectural Design Competition under Public Procurement Constraints

“Future School for Ukraine” was born out of a pressing need to support the rebuilding of Ukraine’s war-damaged education system — with quality and long-term vision at its core. Initiated by the Government of Lithuania and implemented by the Architects Association of Lithuania and the Central Project Management Agency, the project sought to provide a replicable, adaptive, and contemporary school prototype that can serve various Ukrainian communities. “Future School for Ukraine” aimed to support Ukraine’s educational infrastructure recovery through a meaningful and context-sensitive architectural response. Rather than exporting Lithuanian experience, the process was built on co-creation: vision and decisions about the school had to be made with, not for, Ukraine. The project began with a two-stage process. First, a creative workshop brought together Ukrainian and Lithuanian architects, urbanists, and education experts to jointly define the vision, values, and spatial programme of a new school. To address critical needs for accessible, safe, and quality education, the project was to be developed as a multifunctional educational and community hub. It would integrate temporary accommodation, community spaces, psychological rehabilitation, and crucial dual-use shelters. The outcomes of this collaborative effort were directly embedded into the international architectural competition brief, ensuring that the task reflected Ukrainian needs, values, and conditions.

An open international architectural competition was launched as the heart of the process, guided by the principles of inclusiveness, transparency, and architectural excellence. Architects from across the world were invited to submit proposals for a new type of school that could respond to the evolving educational paradigms of post-war Ukraine. To ensure international collaboration and presence of local knowledge, the requirement for the participating teams was set: at least 1 team member must have a right to practice architecture in Ukraine, and at least 1 – not in Ukraine. 15 entries were received, with extensive geography: Ukraine, Lithuania, United Kingdom, Portugal, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Japan, Italy, Finland, and France.

What set this ADC apart was the competition’s ambition: to create an adaptive technical project. Ukraine needs school designs that are immediately usable and free to implement across diverse locations. Yet instead of reverting to Soviet-style standardization, the winning proposal had to offer a repeatable but locally adaptable model. The adaptive project is an innovative architectural-technical

construct: a modular system of spatial, structural, and programmatic solutions that can be flexibly reconfigured to fit different geographic, urban, environmental, and community contexts — all while retaining a coherent architectural identity.

Another aspect making this ADC distinctive was its multidimensional quality-first approach. The jury — composed of internationally recognized architects, educational experts, and representatives from EU countries and Ukraine — evaluated proposals on quality criteria: architectural merit, adaptability, sustainability, and community impact. The competition served as a pilot project under the New European Bauhaus LAB “Public Infrastructure for Ukraine,” reinforcing the importance of co-creation and cultural relevance.

The winning proposal by “Scandurra Studio Architeturra” (Italy) and M. A. Vustianskyi (Ukraine) stood out for its clarity, modularity, and sensitivity to Ukrainian context. The design enables local adaptation while maintaining a strong identity. Its implementation will begin in Zhytomyr (supported by the Lithuanian State), with the blueprint to be made freely available via the DREAM platform — turning one design into many future possibilities. Through this exemplary ADC, Lithuania has not only supported Ukraine’s recovery but also set a precedent for quality-driven, open collaboration in architecture.

The competition is part of a larger effort to support war torn Ukraine to rebuild. Beyond finding an adaptive school prototype, the competition itself is a kind of procedural prototype in Ukraine, that lacks specific legal framework for procuring intellectual services through competitions so far. Through the activities of UREHERIT knowledge exchange concerning policy-related ADCs topics was enabled as well. The high level of elaboration in relation to relatively low prize money is due to these extraordinary circumstances, but should not be a standard for future competitions in Ukraine.

## 17. Public Participation Process: Lido Stainz (Freibad Stainz)



**Figure 17:** Aerial view of the outdoor swimming-pool complex. Photo credits: © Barbara Ganster.

Location	Stainz, Styria (Austria)
Year of competition launch	2023
Contracting Authority	Municipality of Stainz
Competition Organisers / Management	Architekt DI Rainer Wührer
Winning Team / Architect	Florian Schober Architektur ZT
Type of ADC procedure	Invited Competition
Number of entries	8
Realisation	2024-2025

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## Benefits of a participatory process for defining the brief for an architectural competition

As part of the leisure and sports facilities of the market town of Stainz, the lido of Stainz is located on the site where the first bathing establishment was built in 1891 and the previous outdoor swimming pool was built between 1971 and 1973. In 2022, the pool had to be closed by the authorities due to irreparable defects and inadequate hygiene standards. The 'Team Freibad Stainz 2025' initiative, comprising representatives from Stainz clubs, then took action to preserve this important social meeting place in the market town.

In 2023, the foundations for the project were defined in a public participation process with more than 100 participants. This project stands out in particular due to the intensive involvement of the residents of Stainz and the resulting task specification for the architectural competition. An invited architectural competition was then launched by the municipality of Stainz in cooperation with the work group on ADCs of the local chamber of architects. To give the precedent public participation process impact on the competition decision the mayor of Stainz, Karl Bohnstingl passed on his vote in the competition jury to a representative of the involved citizenship. Florian Schober Architektur ZT emerged as the winner of the competition with their project.

The insights gained from the participation process and the extensive briefing were an important basis for the success of the competition. From the outset, the aim was to enable at least parts of the site to be used outside the outdoor swimming season, which is why the elongated building also serves to zone and shield individual areas. The flexible usability and structure of the outdoor spaces, made possible by the use of revolving and sliding gates in the building passageways, thus generate added value in terms of urban development. The restaurant, which is open all year round, offers a kiosk service for guests of the outdoor pool, as well as a café and restaurant service outside of swimming hours. In addition, lunch for the neighbouring compulsory schools and kindergartens in the market town of Stainz is cooked and prepared here daily using fresh ingredients and delivered to the kindergartens, while the children from the compulsory schools come here to eat.

It is also particularly notable that the result corresponds to the wishes and ideas expressed in the participation process and that the outdoor pool was very well received in its first season.

# List of Figures

**Figure 1** View of Graz University Library extension (photo credits: Michael Kopp).

**Figure 2** Winning design for the extension of the Plečnik's Baragova Seminary (photo credits: Denis Hitrec).

**Figure 3** Winning design for the Nieuwe Veemarkt in Zwolle (image credits: Joost Emmerik, Studio Nauta, Mulder Zonderland).

**Figure 4** Snapshot of the Platform "Espazium Competitions".

**Figure 5** Urban Development Plan Luščić Centre (image credits: Municipality of Karlovac).

**Figure 6** Interior view of the 85 Social Housing Units in Cornellà by Peris+Toral Arquitectes (photo credits: José Hervia).

**Figure 7** Interior view of the Health Sciences Faculty of Semmelweis University (photo credits: Barta Bálint).

**Figure 8** Citizens' dialogue with two of the prize-winners of the Luise Büchner Educational Campus (photo credits: Bürogemeinschaft Sippel).

**Figure 9** Aerial view of Lemba Culture Village (image credits: Charis Solomou).

**Figure 10** Visualisation of the Chýně–Hostivice Community School's exterior (photo credits: Dousek–Záborský).

**Figure 11** Visual representation of the pavilion from an aerial view. Image credits: © Marie Joo Thorup.

**Figure 12** View of the main façade of the Centre for the Meeting of Cultures. Image credits: © Marcin Czechowicz.

**Figure 13** Renderings of the residential façade and view from the exterior communal corridor. Image credits: © Tiago Filipe Pedrosa Martins, Nuno Miguel Pinto e Costa, Daniel João Lobo Carvalho.

**Figure 14** Visualisation of the entrance façade of the National Concert Hall. Image credits: © Arquivio Architects.

**Figure 15** Interior view of the building lobby. Image credits: © Tuomas Uusheimo.

**Figure 16** View of the main entrance. Image credits: © Scandurra Studio.

**Figure 17** Aerial view of the outdoor swimming-pool complex. Photo credits: © Barbara Ganster.

## EU legislation and National Policies

<b>2014/24/EU</b>	Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC Text with EEA relevance.
<b>2018/844/EU</b>	Directive 2018/844 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency.
<b>BöB</b>	Bundesgesetz über das öffentliche Beschaffungswesen (Swiss Federal Law on Public Procurement).
<b>BVerG 2018</b>	Bundesvergabegesetz (Austrian Federal Procurement Act).
<b>GWB</b>	Gesetz gegen Wettbewerbsbeschränkungen (German Acts against Restraints on Competition).
<b>IVöB</b>	Interkantonale Vereinbarung über das öffentliche Beschaffungswesen (Swiss Intercantonal Ordinance on Public Procurement).
<b>RPW</b>	Richtlinie für Planungswettbewerbe (German Guidelines for Design Contests).
<b>UVgO</b>	Unterschwellenvergabeordnung (German Sub-threshold Public Procurement Ordinance).
<b>VgV</b>	Vergabeverordnung (German Procurement Ordinance).
<b>VöB</b>	Vereinbarung über das öffentliche Beschaffungswesen (Swiss Ordinance on Public Procurement).
<b>WSA 2010</b>	Wettbewerbsstandard (Austrian Competition Standard Guidelines).
<b>ZJN-3</b>	Zakon o Javnem Naročanju (Slovenian Public Procurement Act).
<b>PJN</b>	Pravilnik o javnih natečajih za izbiro strokovno najprimernejših rešitev prostorskih ureditev in objektov (Slovenian by-law regulation on ADC).
<b>ZUREP-3</b>	Zakon o urejanju prostora (Slovenian Spatial Planning Act).

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