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Town and Spatial Planning Association of Slovenia: The 2014 Maks Fabiani Awards, Štanjel na Krasu, Slovenia, 15 November 2014

The Town and Spatial Planning Association of Slovenia (TSPAS) is a professional association offering professional connections and cooperation to Slovenian town and spatial planners, and active participation in town and spatial planning discussions both nationally and internationally. Its statute states that the association's purpose is to promote the development of conditions contributing to Slovenia's sustainable development and to safeguard the cultural identity of Slovenian territory and its residents' access to natural, cultural and material goods.

The association strives to maintain a high level of expertise among its members and to develop their skills, promote proficiency in social decision-making and raise public awareness in implementing public territorial interests. Collaboration with related organisations and associations in both Slovenia and abroad is important. The association is a member of the European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU) and actively participates in it.

In a time of rapid changes and developmental challenges, planners' tasks should include drafting updated spatial legislation, raising public responsiveness, proposing solutions to current issues, and recognising and awarding the best Slovenian town and spatial planning practice. This is intended to promote quality professional practices and present them to the general public.

In this spirit, on 15 November 2014 in Štanjel na Krasu, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, the association presented the

fifth consecutive Maks Fabiani Awards. The Maks Fabiani Awards were given out by an expert jury consisting of Andrej Pogačnik (jury chair), Breda Mihelič and Boštjan Cotič.

The first-place Maks Fabiani Award and the nomination for the European Urban and Regional Planning ECTP Award, as the Slovenian national selection, went to the project "Preliminary Design Concepts for Revitalising River Mills in White Carniola, and Site Selection and Placement of Small Hydro-power Stations" by a group composed of Urša Šolc, Zorislava Fras and Danijela Kure Kastelc and with the contributors Tamara Kočevar, Matej Kure, Luiza Suhadolnik, Renata Rozman, Anes Durgutović and Mitja Marn (client: Municipality of Črnomelj). The project was partially financed by the European Commission through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), under the LEADER approach, and provided for in the 2010 Annual Implementation Plan of the Lower Carniola and White Carniola Local Action Group. The potential sites and five preliminary design concepts for the actual mills were demonstrated. A technological solution using an Archimedes' screw and a standard waterwheel were explained. This preliminary study on the reuse of old mills can provide a model for problem-solving in Slovenia and elsewhere in Europe. This makes it possible to tackle the problem of preserving the cultural heritage of mills, including rehabilitation of small river sections. The solution is a contribution to a sustainable, "green" energy supply using water power – a domestic, renewable and environmentally friendly source of energy.

The second-place Maks Fabiani Award was presented for the "Municipal Spatial Plan for Sežana: Opportunities in the Karst: My Municipality, My Village" by Leon Kobetič, Manca Jug, Nuša Britovšek, Daniele Toscano, Andrej Podjed, Jasmina Puškar and Locus d.o.o. (client: Municipality of Sežana). The jury found the presentations in form of cartograms and photomontages very convincing, providing a model for municipal spatial plans in other municipalities as well, particularly for new developments and revitalisation of individual settlements. The presentation had a local touch by including some sentences in the local dialect, and it expressed the wishes of the local population regarding spatial planning. The Municipal Spatial Plan for Sežana is a good example of bringing spatial planning closer to people and their needs.

The third-place Maks Fabiani Award went to the project "Cycling, Landscape and Symbolic Aspects of the Cycling Trail in Bohinj" by Aleksander S. Osttan and Nataša Pavlin, co-authors Saša Malenšek, Tomaž Dobravc and Edvin Hadžiahmetović, and contributors Lea Prezelj, Sanja Simič and Urška Špeh, all from the Atelje Ostan Pavlin design studio, and an image package by Žiga Okorn. The jury welcomed the fact that this was a revitalisation project, the success of which is demonstrable and verifiable in the field. The work goes beyond existing cycling trail projects in Slovenia, also addressing the cycling trail in its visual, cultural, symbolic and other dimensions.

The expert jury, consisting of Andrej Pogačnik (jury chair), Breda Mihelič and Boštjan Cotič, conferred the Maks



Figure 1: a) Authors of and contributors to the project “Preliminary Design Concepts for Revitalising River Mills in White Carniola, and Site Selection and Placement of Small Hydro-power Stations”; b) project authors and contributors with the award presenters (photo: Rok Grobelšek).



Figure 2: Authors of the “Municipal Spatial Plan for Sežana: Opportunities in the Karst: My Municipality, My Village” (photo: Rok Grobelšek)



Figure 3: Authors of and contributors to the project “Cycling, Landscape, and Symbolic Aspects of the Cycling Trail in Bohinj” (photo: Rok Grobelšek)



Figure 4: Advisor for the project “A Flexible Coastal Edge: Izola East” (photo: Rok Grobelšek)

Fabiani Student Award (a travel scholarship) for the project “A Flexible Coastal Edge: Izola East” by the students Miha Bukovec, Natan Franciel Arend and others (advisor: Lucija Ažman Momirski et al.; University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture, other participating establishments of higher education and design studios). The jury found that the work offered an innovative and fresh way of presenting various approaches to revitalising and remediating a section of the Slovenian coast from Izola to Ruda, including a campsite in the Viližan Bay area. A number of variations by student groups were convincingly presented, combining cartograms, cross-sections and photomontages, with an emphasis on walkways along the coast, new cultural and tourism development in the abandoned Izola Shipyard, the use of thermal springs and other forms of quality transformation of this abandoned part of the Slovenian coast, which is currently exposed to uncontrolled development.

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