

Superscape 2016

Future Urban Living – Functional Reduction with Maximum Space Gain

Call for Entries for the Architecture Prize

Organiser:
JP Immobilien

Vienna, September 9, 2015

Context

Population growth, increasing urbanisation and social change pose new challenges for architecture and urban planning. Reflecting these processes of change, Superscape opens a creative space for unconventional ideas meant to deliver new impulses to real-life architectural output and urban development. The biannual prize seeks to encourage innovative and visionary architectural concepts exploring new models of living and strategies for inhabiting an urban context over a broad expanse of 50 years.

Increasing economic pressure on urban areas demands innovative strategies and models of how to create affordable housing as close to the centre as possible, in order to decrease the effect of displacement to the urban fringe and its attendant strain on mobility infrastructures, at the expense of the community and environment.

In addition, conventional residential spaces and their division offer little opportunity for flexible uses, which are becoming increasingly important in the realities of daily life today. New organisational forms of work, discontinuous life and work biographies, new forms of households and cohabitation – diverging from the core family – and changes to everyday culture have led to different needs for space.

Objectives

The Superscape 2016 title *Future Urban Living – Functional Reduction with Maximum Space Gain* opens a field for visionary design suggestions and space concepts which focus on building the urban residential space of the future. Innovative solutions are sought, combining high-quality residences with great space efficiency and the greatest functional flexibility possible. In this context, the changing needs and requirements of urban dwellers for their residences during the next 50 years shall be taken into consideration. The goal is to formulate forward-thinking concepts, to question familiar residential patterns and to risk experiments in design, but also to consider their feasibility, and to check the possibility of realising them within existing building substance and existing urban structures. Furthermore, the subject is highly relevant with regard to increasing mobility and urban traffic flow within the context of urban planning.

Immediate feasibility and current limitations imposed by building codes or norms should not be of primary concern. The new, unconventional approaches to be explored in terms of architecture and space, of construction as well as organisation and urban planning, raise a multitude of potential questions:

- Which design approaches allow the functions of a conventional apartment to be fulfilled in the most space-efficient way?
- Which needs must spaces in future residential buildings fulfil, given the background of changing lifestyles, new everyday cultures and a society that is permanently diversifying (multi-local lifestyles, individualisation, share economy, patchwork families, long life expectancy...)?
- Which facets of minimalism might play a role in general?
- Which functions and activities could be outsourced to shared spaces, and how could this stimulate social interaction?
- Which positive effects might such approaches have on coexistence? Which economic and ecological effects follow?
- What role might the share economy play in future (urban) housing construction?
- What standards of today's apartments are expendable, and what new possibilities are opened by foregoing them?
- What are the constructive potentials for flexibility within an apartment, a house or an entire housing settlement?
- How could the division between real estate and furniture be ended?
- How could the currently established forms of space use (cooking in the kitchen, sleeping in the bedroom, personal hygiene in the bathroom...) be dissolved?
- How could new spatial structures affect mobility, traffic infrastructure as well as private and public resources?

Motivation of the Organiser

JP Immobilien develops not only living spaces, but living environments. Therefore, it strives to support social, cultural and environment-related issues as part of its corporate responsibility. Since architecture and urban planning always also interfere with the social environment, it is important to JP Immobilien to make a lasting contribution to the tension-filled field of architecture, its protagonists, inhabitants and designers. Thus, Superscape focuses mainly on creating a long-term workshop of ideas, providing visionary concepts that deliver impulses for today's projects.

Award Process and Organisation

The organization and implementation of the architectural competition has been entrusted to:

art:phalanx Kunst- und Kommunikationsagentur GmbH.

Project leader and manager: Sarah Hellwagner

Content consultant: Franziska Leeb

The Award Process and Procedural Basis

The first phase of the architectural competition is an anonymous, open process. After the expert jury has nominated the shortlist, the individual protagonists will be invited to a non-anonymous process, during which the project sketches are to be elaborated further. The legal basis for the process is this call for entries and the answers to the questions asked of the procedural organisation, which can be viewed in an anonymised version at www.jp-perspektiven.at. The competition will be carried out in German. By submitting materials, candidates acknowledge the rules of the competition. The decisions of the expert jury are final. The adjudication and the ranking of the submissions cannot be appealed. Legal recourse is excluded.

Eligibility

Eligible candidates must have at least a degree (e.g. Master degree, Dipl. Ing.) in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning or design from a university or academy. Multi-disciplinary teams are eligible, provided they have at least one member which fulfils these criteria. Eligibility must be proven by submitting a copy of the degree certificate. If the submitted project or concept is the subject of a commercial assignment or a research project, this must be stated explicitly.

Criteria for Exclusion or Elimination

The following are excluded from participation:

- Anyone involved in preparing the text of the call for entries.
- The preliminary adjudicators and jury members, their close relatives, as well as their office or company partners.
- A submission shall be excluded if the candidate tries to influence a member of the expert jury in his or her decision as a jury member.

Prize Value

The architectural award Superscape 2016 carries a cash value of 20,000 Euro (including the VAT rate applicable in the winner's country of residence or business). The shortlist nominees will receive an allowance of 2,000 Euro to help defray their costs (also including the VAT rate applicable in the participants' country of residence or business).

Materials for Submission

Phase 1

Letter of motivation and statement of the submitted idea as a conceptual sketch, both through images and via a brief essay.

Letter of motivation: No more than 1 page (A4) in type size 12

Essay: No more than 3 pages (A4) in type size 12

Visual sketch: No more than 2 pages (A3)

Phase 2

Elaboration of the submitted conceptual sketch in one or several freely chosen analogous or digital media, following feedback from the expert jury, and design of a poster (format: DIN A1 portrait), allowing a unified presentation of the elaborated concepts.

Materials to be Submitted in Phase 1

Diploma certificate (of at least one team member)

Proof of planning or research references, if applicable

Contact information (address, email address and telephone number)

- max. 1 DIN A4 page letter of motivation in type size 12
- max. 3 DIN A4 pages conceptual sketch in type size 12
- as well as a visual sketch of the conceptual approach (max. 2 pages DIN A3)

Application materials are to be submitted by March 7, 2016 digitally and completely in standard file formats (doc, pdf, jpg, tif etc) with the reference "Submission Superscape 2016", either on a data carrier (USB stick or hard drive) or collated into one file and using a file hosting service (e.g. WeTransfer). Images and sketches must be submitted in printable quality (i.e. 300 dpi).

Submissions via a file hosting service must be sent to the following email address: einreichen@jp-perspektiven.at

Data carriers may be submitted in person or via regular mail to the following address:

art: phalanx
Kunst- und Kommunikationsagentur GmbH
Neubaugasse 25/1/11
1070 Wien
Österreich

Submission materials for Phase 1 may be submitted digitally and sent or delivered physically to the above-named address, in addition to the digital submission.

Submissions must be received by 4pm on March 7, 2016 at art: phalanx Kunst- und Kommunikationsagentur GmbH, Neubaugasse 25/1/11, 1070 Vienna, Austria.

The expert jury's first meeting will take place subsequently, and the nominations for the shortlist will be announced.

The shortlist candidates have until August 2016 to elaborate their submitted concepts; this will be followed by the second meeting of the jury.

The official award ceremony for Superscape 2016 will take place during a gala event in October 2016.

Preliminary Checking and Anonymisation of Submitted Materials

A preliminary check and anonymisation of the submitted materials will be undertaken by Sarah Hellwagner.

Submissions will be checked for compliance with the eligibility requirements and formal requirements; they will then be forwarded in anonymised form to the members of the expert jury.

Expert Jury

Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, curator and journalist, director of the Museum of Applied Arts, founder of the Vienna Biennial

Klaus Kada, architect, president of EUROPAN Austria, honorary member of the German Architects' Association and member of the Architecture Academic Advisory Committee of the Chinese University of Hong Kong

Anna Popelka, architect and founder of PPAG architects, author, visiting professor at TU Graz (Institute for Housing Construction) and TU Wien

Lilli Hollein, curator, author and journalist, director of Vienna Design Week, co-founder of Verein Neigungsgruppe Design

Harald Gründl, co-founder of E00S and the Institute of Design Research Vienna, designer, design research with a focus on sustainable design, curator and author

Submission Forms

The forms for submissions are available exclusively at:

<http://www.ip-perspektiven.at/Teilnahme>

Further Information

Please address all inquiries about the modalities of Superscape 2016 to einreichen@ip-perspektiven.at. Such inquiries and their answers will be published in anonymous form at www.ip-perspektiven.at/Teilnahme for the information of all potential candidates.

Copyrights and Usage Rights

The copyrights of the submitted concepts remain with their authors, without limitations. For purposes of documentation and media reporting on Superscape 2016, Superscape 2016 reserves the right to use the visualisations and possibly other submitted materials, provided the author is identified. By submitting their application materials, copyright holders agree to this usage.

Assessment Criteria

- socio-cultural and social context
- relationship between housing and its urban context
- architectural and urban-planning approach