

FINAL JURY REPORT

ONSITE Mugak/ COMPETITION – BILBAO

Date: December 12, 2024

Location: Bilbao

Jury Chair: María Arana - Curator of the fifth edition of the Mugak/ Biennial

Jury Members:

- Concha Fernández Ordoyo: Territorial Housing Delegate for Bizkaia, Basque Government
- Javier Martínez Callejo: Director of Urban Planning, Bilbao City Council
- Miren Escartín: Culture Representative of the Bizkaia Delegation, Official Association of Basque-Navarrese Architects
- Ibon Salaberria: School of Architecture, EHU/UPV
- María Arana: Curator of the Mugak/ Biennial
- Clara Hurtado: Habic Cluster

Introduction

The OSITE Mugak/ competition, held in Bilbao, aimed to foster reflection on the theme “**Castles in the Air or How to Build Utopia Today**” through ephemeral architectural proposals that integrate sustainability, innovation, and a meaningful dialogue with the urban environment.

The jury evaluated proposals based on the competition guidelines, considering aspects such as architectural quality, site relationship, alignment with the theme, level of innovation, technical and economic feasibility, and environmental impact.

After thorough analysis and detailed deliberations, the jury decided to award a **first prize**, a **second prize**, and an **honorable mention**, which are presented below.

FIRST PRIZE

Project: ETXENOI

Award: €10,000 + VAT

Evaluation

The jury selected **Et xenoi** as the first prize winner for its ability to translate fundamental concepts of sustainability, reuse, and urban regeneration into an architectural pavilion of significant conceptual and functional impact.

Relation to the Theme

Et xenoi embodies a regenerative utopia aligned with the reflections of thinkers like Lewis Mumford, who advocated for utopias centered on social and urban transformation through the reuse of existing materials. This project reinterprets architecture as an exercise in collective responsibility, placing citizens at the forefront as active agents of change in building a more sustainable future.

Relation to the Site

The proposal engages with the urban context of Bilbao by using materials such as scaffolding and fabrics that evoke the city's industrial landscape and construction traditions. Its integration facilitates public activities such as exhibitions and workshops, offering a functional space that respects the site's identity.

Innovation and Materiality

The proposal stands out for its use of reused scaffolding, symbolizing the transition of architecture toward a circular economy. The jury values how this approach minimizes ecological impact while offering an adaptable and functional structure. The inclusion of fabrics that provide domestic perspectives adds an intimate and reflective dimension to the pavilion.

Sustainability and Feasibility

Et xenoi is characterized by its low consumption of new materials, maximizing the reuse of existing elements. Additionally, its design proposes possibilities for adaptation and improvement, reinforcing its technical and economic feasibility. The project represents a model of responsible architecture that promotes resource optimization and encourages reflection on sustainability in urban contexts.

Conclusion

The jury considers that the content and form of this project offer a comprehensive and transformative proposal capable of generating a meaningful experience for citizens. **Et xenoi** not only responds to the theme of the Biennial but also projects a clear and accessible vision of how to construct a utopia today.



SECOND PRIZE

Project: GAVIONES EN EL AIRE

Award: €1,000 + VAT

Evaluation

The second prize was awarded to **Gaviones en el Aire** for its creative approach to material reuse and its ability to reinterpret Bilbao's industrial past as a driver of contemporary utopias.

The jury highlights the spatial permeability of the pavilion, inviting visitors to interact and reflect on the diversity and complexity of utopias. The use of gabions as the main structure symbolizes a dialogue between the tangible and the intangible, reinforcing the narrative that utopias, although abstract, can have a striking physical presence.

HONORABLE MENTION

Project: GARDEN ON THE WAY

Award: Symbolic recognition

Evaluation

The honorable mention was awarded to **Garden on the Way** for its radical and groundbreaking proposal, which presents an anti-pavilion as a critique of the construction of ephemeral structures. The proposal stands out for its low ecological footprint and its capacity to provoke reflection on urban renaturalization.

The jury particularly values its symbolism and ability to question the boundaries between nature and industry. The inclined trailer structuring the intervention invites a conceptual journey toward a utopia, where descent and ascent represent the eternal process of searching for and executing transformative ideas.

Conclusion

The jury expresses gratitude for the high quality and conceptual diversity of the proposals submitted to this edition of the **ONSITE Mugak/ competition in Bilbao**. The selected projects encourage reflection on utopia through the lens of sustainability and urban regeneration.

The interventions engage with the city's industrial memory and explore how to reuse and transform the existing urban fabric to construct more sustainable futures. This approach turns Bilbao into a laboratory for experimentation, where ephemeral architecture translates into tangible and critical solutions to contemporary challenges.

In particular, the winning project Etxenoi stands out as an exemplary proposal, combining functionality, sustainability, and a clear message about collective responsibility in building a more equitable and environmentally respectful future.

Date: December 12, 2024