

# IDEA CONTEST RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

## Revealing and staging the metropolitan landscape

Cergy, 3 May 2012

### Context reminder and instructions

Alongside the call for applications launched by Les Ateliers to participate to the next September international workshop, the managing team of the 30<sup>th</sup> Atelier of Cergy-Pontoise launched an “idea contest” on April 4<sup>th</sup> on the social networks.

The topic was: What actions can we implement today to contribute to create or strengthen a visual identity at the metropolitan scale? To create a specific silhouette to our big cities? To ensure a sustainable landscape that integrates both the rural and urban spaces? To recreate a sense of belonging and a contemporary aesthetics?

Instructions: Propose an action or a decision to Reveal and Stage the Landscape of Metropolises

Contest criteria: inventiveness, feasibility at the metropolitan scale, contribution to the global identity

### Jury panel

Bertrand Warnier, Founder and Vice-Chairman of Les Ateliers, creator and organizer of Cergy 2012,  
Christophe Bayle, Urban planner and architect, member of the board of Les Ateliers,  
Nicolas Détrie, Director of Les Ateliers,  
Léa Morfoisse, in charge of preparing Cergy 2012 workshop .

### General remarks

57 contributions have been received in time – ie before April 20<sup>th</sup>. These suggestions were very varied and therefore allow us to widen the scope of our work.

Some general analysis were very relevant and included new expressions that really appealed to us – like “peri-metropolitan spaces”.

But there was a general difficulty to provide answers at the large scale to “how can we shape the metropolitan landscape of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?”

Some ideas could be seen as general recommendations, acknowledging what has been stated in the contest presentation text, but without making strong suggestions. One of the constraints was however to clearly identify one action or decision to undertake/make.

Some of the suggestions focus on projects at the small scale, recommending to act at the local scale and assuming that, put all together, they would eventually create a metropolitan landscape. This is where our big challenge lies: is it possible to have a global approach and shape the landscape by other means than just accumulating several small-scale projects?

Few contributions suggested acting physically at the very big scale, and most of the ideas concerning a physical/visual actions were more of architecture projects, sometimes inspired by a sense of a futuristic modernity.

Several contributions suggested shaping the landscape by changing the laws and regulations concerning buildings heights and limits, creating this way a metropolitan silhouette (very good example for Jakarta's landscape).

Other ideas were based on using functional elements and infrastructures to create a visual identity for the metropolis: bridges, transportation networks, water cycles, etc...

Several suggestions are based on the idea that the viewpoints such as “the metropolitan sea-shore paths”, the hills, elevated sites, rooftops, and their function should be classified and listed. Specific walks could for example reveal not only the metropolitan silhouette and geography, but also its history.

Other contributions suggesting spreading across the land in the Paris region some structures and objects shared by everyone: landscape public houses, information stations about the history of the

place. More of a symbol, it has been suggested to create a square which each pavement stone would be carved with the name of a different street of the metropolis.

Two new and innovative approaches to the topic were noted: the participative approach related to the use of new technologies, allowing citizens to become the creators of the landscape at the bigger scale. The second one is the approach through nature and agriculture, contributing to shaping a landscape at the metropolitan scale and to creating a feeling of belonging for the region.

Finally, we were pleased to receive proposals on innovative analysis and representations of the landscape at the large scale.

## Awards

First prize // 300 euros: Laure Kiriakou for her suggestion to act on the “railway fringes” of the metropolis and to do so, to consider the continuous elements of the rail network –that are sometimes linked to the natural and geographical elements- as the components of a landscape, like river banks. Developing those areas would be done through creating new urban places near those open areas, highlighting so the historical value of those railways landscapes, as well as the contemporary value that is given to today’s metropolitan transportation networks.

Second prize // 200 euros: Souroovee Dutta, for the very well illustrated idea that a new visual identity will emerge through the ecological transformation of the suburbs of big cities. This idea means acting at the bigger scale, and suggests concrete actions such as creating landmark places, large continuous urban elements, a strong link between the urban center and the rural peripheries, and foresees new objects and shapes created by today’s constraints and rules on the energy and the environment.

Third prize // 100 euros : Josef Morkus, for his simple but strong idea to create a catalog of all the view points of a given metropolis allowing to see the center from the peripheries, to discover what already exists (geography, urban and vegetal bodies, etc..), increasing a sense of belonging and giving the inhabitants the opportunity to get to know better the territory.

## Special distinctions

Adding to the three winners identified collectively, each jury member could chose a contribution/idea that we think contributes positively to the work our team is leading.

- Reem Abu Salem, and his original idea to represent the urban and symbolic shapes of a city along a topographic axis. This technique allows us to discover the different atmospheres of the places, as well as the views and characteristic monuments according to the height of the land. This idea is interesting for us if we apply it to a territory of several kilometers. It forces us to identify what gives the city its identity, and allows us to see how well are used the different heights of the territory.

- Rodrigo Garcia, who managed to combine –with images, a little utopic- the very big dimension: the horizon shaped by a very flat and low urban development, and very high objects. This is a good answer to “compress” the distances that characterizes a big metropolis. The drawings of these urban elements are strong symbols as they are gigantic, and they still remain housing buildings. Nothing is left out: nature, the historical city (in the background), sport, fun, night-time, etc..

- Antoine Talon, for his striking analysis and a comprehensive and fun suggestion to access and move through the city “volumes”: rooftop terraces, aerial tramways, observation networks, hidden places...

- Chirvasie Cosmin, for the research on how to characterize the metropolis and reveal its history and dimensions through a fractal number. It is an exciting approach!

**Thank you to all of you for your contributions to the contest !**