

arquideas

JURY DECISION

INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION | BAY BOOK HOUSE (BaBH) SAN FRANCISCO

The Jury

Kim Herforth Nielsen | Co-founder and Principal of 3XN Architects

Masahiro Harada | Co-founder of MOUNT FUJI ARCHITECTS STUDIO

Ada Yvars | Principal of Mangera Yvars Arquitectos

Sara de Giles | Principal of MGM Morales de Giles Arquitectos

Manuel J. Feo | Professor at ETSA Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Vanessa Vielma | Director of ArchDaily Mexico

Diego Botella, Álvaro Jiménez, Omar Páez and Yacme Mangrané | MoAN Egypt winner team

Jury Decision

The Jury members of the Bay Book House (BaBH) San Francisco architecture competition, having carefully considered all the 78 submitted proposals from 25 countries, made their evaluation in two stages in order to unify opinions and finding a fair verdict.

The Jury, considering the evaluation criteria specified in the Terms and Conditions, such as how clearly the ideas of the project are transmitted, the quality of the architectural proposal, the settlement criteria, as well as the dialogue between the proposal and the landscape, the solutions provided for the proposed program of uses, and the criteria of sustainability and energy efficiency, after the first phase of evaluation, highlights 15 proposals as finalists.

In a second evaluation phase, the Jury selected 5 honourable mentions and the 3 winning proposals.

As a group, these proposals represent the values the contest was trying to transmit, providing thoughtful and talented approaches to the set problem.

FINALISTS

BaBH 1063

Juan Verdaguer
Ismael Preti
Nicolás Alejandro Giordano
Yasmin Hilen Mayor
Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina

BaBH 1065

Simón Cebrián Saiz
Astrid Carolina Periñan Escobar
Almudena Alarcón Ruiz
Miguel Morillas Machetti
Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain

BaBH 1125

Chi Hong Mak
University of Hong Kong, China

BaBH 1127

Alejandro Vázquez Correa
Alvaro Romero Sancho
Arturo Moreno Latorre
Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid, Spain

BaBH 1148

Paula Hernández Mateo
Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid, Spain

BaBH 1152

Farrokh Rostami Kia
Siavash Rezaei
University of New Mexico, United States

BaBH 1175

Jakub Staszkievicz
Emilia Pilut
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

BaBH 1079

Cristian Ríos Abello
Santiago Álvarez Arteaga
Carlos Andrés Ramírez Bohorquez
Universidad San Buenaventura, Colombia

The jury values the project's strategy, which was generated having in mind the relation between urban space and its inhabitants.

It values the project's urban purpose of establishing visual, programmatic and geometric relations, with the city at its back. The proposal thus leads to the emergence of a city where the design of free spaces becomes its driving force.

This approach gathers strength when it is removed from the urban context: the project burst into the sea thanks to the correct extension of the 3 proposed axes and generates a milestone that works as gateway for knowledge and innovation in the city of San Francisco. However, the implementation of an image with little justification and the program's lack of development relegates its main interest to the initial approach.

The interpretation of the site on the coast as a junction of existing intellectual/ cultural axes is interesting. I agree on the concept: more innovative ideas will be generated next to the sea, which is non-artificial space, rather than in the centre of the city although it's more common in general. If we follow this concept, the triangle space surrounded by three axes has more potential rather than architecturally strengthened axis by repetitive gate-like frames.

Intelligent discourse that navigates us through the project, it would be more exiting if the 3 axis blend together.

BaBH 1087

Alejandro Sánchez-Guijo
Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Málaga, Spain

The jury awards the innovation of this proposal. There is coherence between the architectural formalization and the concept developed for the proposed program. The jury values the reutilization of the preexisting unused dry dock and the appreciation of the coastal edge with the incorporation of a neutral and light support construction: the cloud.

It values the mechanism of contraries proposed by this project, where the "analogical" side of the program acquires the light appearance of a translucent cloud and nonetheless the "immaterial" side acquires

technical conditions due to its location in the excavated part of the pier. Water also works as an active element in the technical strategy of the project, in this case as an element for the necessary refrigeration of the submerged servers.

The initial analogy of the project with the digital and analogical space and servers and cloud is good and is in coherence with the age and space proposed by this contest. However, the cloud element loses consistency in its development, and the final space that appears in its interior lacks its initial power.

The digitalized texts are metaphorically expressed as intangible clouds in people's heads. I am not sure in what extent it has meanings to re-materialize them, but if we are able to have non-substantial spatial experience like in clouds without gravity, it would have a value in some extent as a media space today. If it leaves the idea for linear members of the truss structure, I advise to make more proposals on the part. It won't be well-known "steel" truss.

The strong concept of the cloud generates a new space for the city, the architecture needs further development.

BaBH 1113

Marco Caporaletti
Francesco Tricarico
Felix Varaschini
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

The jury awards the coherence and resolution of this project. It is able to build a landscape by itself, through the superposition of operating and pragmatic layers.

It values the proposal of the pier's benchmark as zero ground for a superstructural and infrastructural program that serves to understand the way of inhabiting the boundary with water. It values the proposition of an excavated and slanted space that makes us dwellers of the interesting proposed section.

A project that, with the slightest intervention, succeeds in generating quality public spaces that allow users to decide the purpose and/or program of the activities.

The project suggests interesting spaces for both the inside and outside of the intervention. Furthermore, the flexibility and nature of the space make it suitable for becoming the wished reference site. However, its relation with the environment is questionable because it is hard to see how these "topographical buildings" connect with their location.

In the area consists of quays, by bringing down the corner of the pier, the project proposed to create two beaches and hills from which people have nice view and bringing up the opposite corner.

In terms of the situation around books today, electric books, that are free from physical space, don't need space to be stored. So that, libraries are required to have a base of its being, that is different from the old one. It's an attractiveness of physical space as a "Reading place". What seems to be important is to

understand the inverted situation between media itself and people's requirement for space in libraries. As the media lose its physical form, the library space is required to be an attractive physical space.

This project gives a clear answer to the situation by two hills and two beaches. The balance between manipulations applied here and effects brought by it look good as well. For these reasons, it is highly evaluated as an excellent proposal in general. The ideas for the relation between two interior spaces will bring it to much higher level.

A new garden for the city. We will encourage to have better dialog with the urban grid.

BaBH 1153

Carlos Mateo Soto
Felipe Santamaría
Sofía Hinestrosa
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia

The jury values the desire for building a space of iconic features on the water edge that secures and makes visible its boundary situation. It also values the apparent instability of the chosen silhouette as a mechanism for intensification and visualization of the boundary situation of the proposal. It also values the noticeable effort performed on the floors of these pieces.

It values the sensitiveness in the treatment of the bordering urban space between sea and city and its landscape vision. The powerful architectural gesture, imitating a staple, visually connects with the two worlds and offers different views of one on the top of the other. At the same time, it adopts this element as a reinterpretation of the pier and its traditional role.

I understand this project as a proposal to re-generate relations between the sea and the land by building arrangement. Buildings are positioned figuring a finger joint like plan. It must be done by the land invasion to the sea, and the sea invasion to the land. The reason why this proposal deals with the latter one as the land preparing pedestrian path is not clear. It seems enough good only to demolish the quaywall and create a beach to make the sea closer to the city. There, the bottom part of the pier will be a service space.

Through the design of a new shore line for the people the project creates a new skyline for the city.

BaBH 1182

Maria Michnowska
Aleksandra Kozłowska
Nelly Malinowska
Maria Kaczorowska
Lodz University of Technology, Poland

The jury especially values the rotundity and simplicity of the piece built on the coastal edge and its complementarity with pragmatic pieces of smaller size that are inserted in the urban structure and activate it.

The project develops an interesting historical study of San Francisco Bay that leads to an attractive proposal of expansion throughout some simple and multipurpose spaces that are randomly dispersed along the city limits. Despite the simplicity and rotundity of the initial approach, the apparition of that big skirting becomes the main actor in the intervention and blurs the new composition of the bay.

While the general urban environment has multiple relations in different directions, the pier has only one side that has relations to urban elements. This proposal reminded me the aspect. The social relation is minimized, and specialized culture is purely experienced there. This can be possible as there is an artificial pear. What is regrettable is the size of the project. It's too big, and more minimal manipulation can bring enough influence.

The diagrams and illustrations are beautiful and gives a great explanation of the project - the urban acupuncture. The pier has been lightly programmed and is flexible and can be used for many purposes. However, the lower levels of the pier could have had a closer visual connection to the bay.

Poetic understanding of the brief while creating a new urban layer for the entire city at human scale.

WINNERS

1ST Prize: BaBH 1068

Indibil Solans Ibáñez
Daniel Varga
Lara Arín González
Lluís Balcells Gracia
Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain

The jury especially values the synthesis of the proposal, materialized by a system based in knowledge transfer in the age of technology.

It values the intervention's diffuse strategy that is able to transcend the pier's physical boundary as formal pattern. The condition of geometrical mesh evoking liquid as an infinite vortex, shapeless and dimensionless, is superimposed on the boundary sea-city as an effective boundary-dissolution strategy. It also values the redefinition of the program in the same terms: as a diffuse field where knowledge is gathered in the pillars/interfaces that manage the access to information.

It is necessary to think architecture and public spaces from something that is already inevitable, the incorporation of technology. Only Internet can supply easy, limitless and interactive access to information. And we find this concept in this proposal, the creation of a public space with architectural features that are technology and provide information. At the same time these elements result in a very powerful, sound, visual proposal.

It values the approximation to the concept from an historical interpretation of the city, that leads in an adventurous, poetic and eminently contemporary solution. It challenges the current role of the library building type and transform it into an element of "urban furniture" that moves away from the traditional concept of built milestone and generates an urban space of interaction and knowledge that is truly public and friendly with the coastline.

The design to transform dada, which is instantaneously transmittable non-physical object, to waves (as if it was on water surface) is interesting. However, it was not data-like to fix its physical conditions in the form of pillars. For example, what about if the height of the lights is controlled individually as LED lighting systems while the height of each pillar is kept same? There will be a place where people can experience the real time beat of huge animal -society-, such as economical variable values and a presidential election, in a bigger scale.

It's a strong conceptual idea that offers people a beautiful landscape to walk around in connection to the bay. It has a poetic look, especially in the evening from above, where it looks like rings in the water. However, I question if QR codes are back.

The iconic light pile provides powerful spaces and creates a unique urban landscape of knowledge.

2ND Prize: BaBH 1186

Thang Ngo
Linh Pham
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

The jury values the project's capacity to inhabit its own artificial horizon that works as a space between the section facing onwards to backwards with the formula to make roof and floors converge. It also values the iconic condition of the piece and its interaction with the water level given its capacity to permit invasions because this way it alters its morphology.

The irruption of the piece as an elevating pier generates a new place under the same, a topography that brings tides as part of the project, diluting the limit between city and sea. The cantilever as a bridge sieves the vision of the sea with the city reflection at its back and shows an uninterrupted vision of the bay. However, despite of the delicate treatment on the unused pier, we miss that it delves into the proposed theme for the project. The purpose of the program is relegated to a second position.

This project makes city dwellers to remember the mother nature by the rhythm of tidal change. In other words it's an equipment to make "nature" apparent, which brings environment far away from the city to them while itself is an artificial environment.

According to the change of the tide level, the urban space appear/disappear.

The tidal change had to be used to control routings there. The richness comes from inconvenience, which is brought by leaving the right to control connection/disconnection from the nature, will provide a place to relax in the urbane space, which often force to have connections...imagine Mont Saint-Michel.

With its understated architecture, the project creates a horizontal building that closely relates to the water and becomes a sea-scraper. The pier merges into the water in the central point and is a catalyst for social interaction. It becomes an amphitheater with water as the central feature, where you can see the bay through the framed view defined by the overlaying beam.

A monumental pier yet well integrated with the shoreline that takes you to new dimension.

3RD Prize: BaBH 1122

Javier Torres Navarro
Sofía Calvo
Sandra Castro Sánchez
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain

The jury awards the innovation of this proposal. It reconstructs a landscape, a topography, through a system based on knowledge transfer in the age of technology. At the same time, it is sensitive to sustainability and in favor of clean energies.

The jury values the reinvention of open spaces through the proposed system of pillars, authentic vegetable avatars that redefine a public space that interacts with the proposed program. It also values the program's diffuse mesh configuration in the covered floors that acquires a true capacity to evoke urban complexities on a small scale.

Same as the previous project in that which concerns technology but it incorporates sustainability concepts, although it has a less convincing visual proposal. But I stay always committed to technology.

The project is conceived from an initial powerful idea, the reinterpretation of the pier's structure as informative points that generate a landscape. However, it gets lost in some details that belittle the rotundity of the proposal, resulting in a proposed object as a mere element placed inside a group and not standing as main character.

This project also studied on "physical space" that takes responsibility for "nonphysical data". What's interesting is it creates special attractive feature of space by natural/ artificial climate conditions such as fog and mist, in addition to the ground landscape. However, objects to show data are too many here.

By those strong impressions, delicate environment such as climate and the ground landscape get to be difficult to be perceived. In fact, devices for data reception and transmission are extremely small today. Many ponds/pools and the ground landscape can make piers to be interpreted as "equipment to improve urban climate", which I think interesting.

Interesting concept of the garden + pile, creating an urban landscape missing the relation with the city.

Acknowledgments

Arquideas would like to thank all the participants for their effort and dedication in this contest and congratulate them for the quality of the proposals presented.

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Arquitectura Viva

