

## ISOCARP Awards for Excellence 2015

### Press Release

The 2015 edition of the ISOCARP Awards for Excellence has been a unique one in terms of number of applications received, quality of projects and participation and interest expressed by ISOCARP community. The ISOCARP awards are, nowadays, “the place” and the context where to show the best urban/regional plans, policies and other related operational tools implemented all around the world.

The ISOCARP International Jury went through the excellent proposals delivered and eventually selected a list of projects that have been awarded on this year’s ISOCARP Congress in Rotterdam.

The jury looked for following criteria:

- 1) Quality in content (relevance of project’s objectives)
- 2) Involvement of communities in the planning process
- 3) Grade of innovation
- 4) Sustainability and replicability of the project
- 5) Smartness and resilience
- 6) Role and relevance of Public Space
- 7) General quality of the proposal



The **1st place** was awarded to: The Ghent Canal Zone Project – a spatial, environmental and economic development process in an industrialized urban area.

Project submitted by: Omgeving.

The Ghent Canal Zone Project is acknowledged as an **example for integrative regional development**



relocating and demolishing some 250 houses out of industrial zones (1)



building a new dock with deep-water quays (2)



electronic truck lock ends nuisance of trucks in the village of Riem (4)



wind mills along the new dock (5)



developing the former agriculture land into a really suffering linking zone in between the village of Deseldonk and the industrial zone (7)



renewed office of the Port Authority: one of the first passive office buildings in Flanders (8)



working out the agreement on the quality of life to diminish the stench pollution in the village of Deseldonk (9)



reorganising the linking zone to give the village of Doornzele an attractive link to the canal (3)

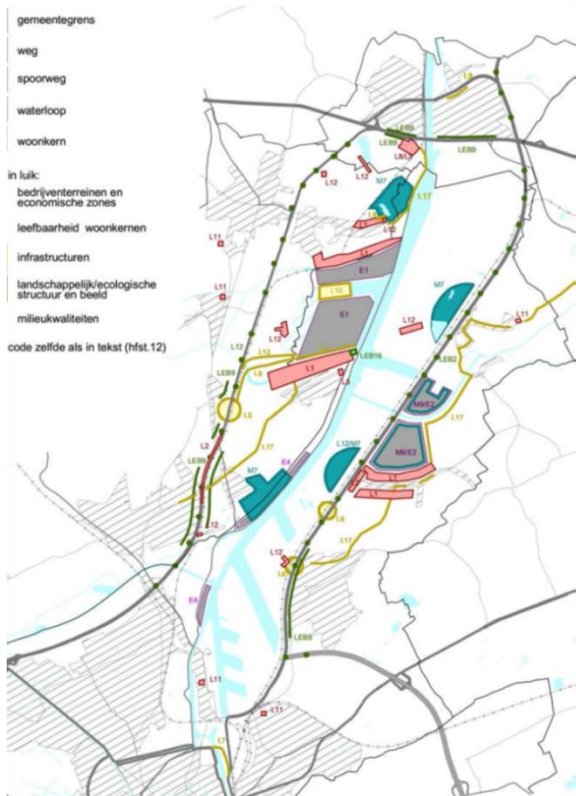


retrofitting gypsum waste mountain into a solar plant in co-production with inhabitants (10)



paying full attention to the image of new industrial buildings (6)

## other innovating actions Ghent Canal Zone Project





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**Ms. Veerle De Bock and Mr. Frank De Mulder receive the award for the Ghent Project**  
(photo: Anna Khodyreva)



The **2nd place** went to the Planning for Green Eco-Districts in the City of Beijing: Carbon Accounting Standards and Tool for Statutory Zoning Plans.

Project submitted by: Centre of Urban Planning and Design, Peking University, China.

The Green eco-District Plans will, for the first time in the statutory planning system of China, adopt **mandatory targets in the form of low carbon and ecological planning key performance indicators (KPIs)**.

## From National Climate Change Policies to Local Statutory Planning: Designation of Green Eco-District Plans in City of Beijing, China Eco Districts Beijing

14 Proposed Green Eco-Districts totaling 734 sq. km. accommodating an estimated of 3.6 mill. inhabitants planned with explicit low carbon and ecological policy goals and measures

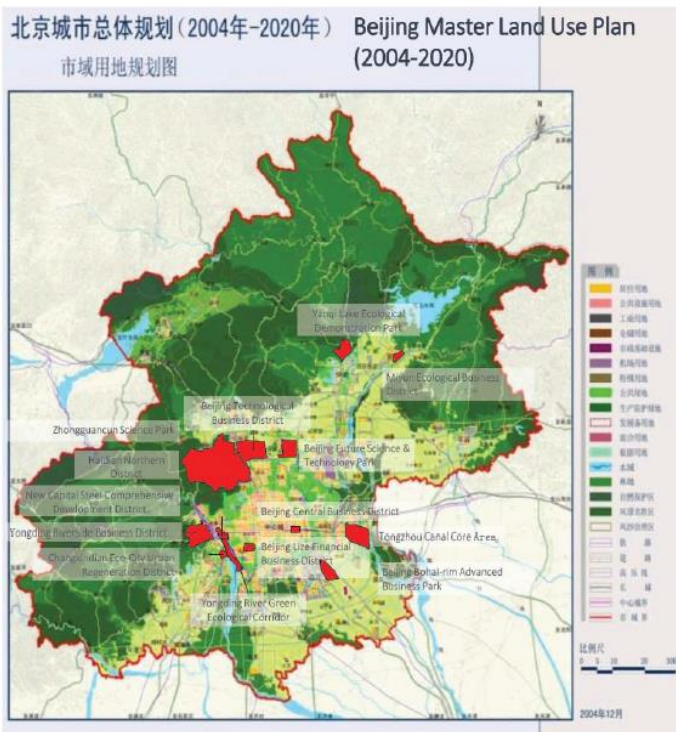


Figure 1: City of Beijing – Proposed Green Eco-Districts Locations



Figure 2: KPIs and the Statutory Plan Making and Design Control



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**Mr. Stanley Yip receives the award for the Ghent Project**  
(photo: Anna Khodyreva)



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The **3rd place** was conferred to the project: Luhe City Center. Project submitted by: TAU (Thadani Architects + Urbanists).

The project makes a sound analysis of the Luhe city center and propose a set of solutions for its **requalification**.

**PLAN GENESIS**

**CENTRAL SQUARE**  
The heart of the project is expressed as a large public space which serves to organize and orient the development. The 175m x 400m space is to be clearly defined by surrounding buildings

**DECUMANUS**  
A proposed vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian bridge connects the site across the river. This east-west thoroughfare will be one of the primary connectors within the City Center.

**CARDO**  
The existing bridge over the canal is extended to form the primary north-south arterial connector. The intersection of the Cardo and Decumanus at the Central Square forms the central core.

**BRIDGE CONNECTION**  
The new bridge over the Chuhe River, presently under construction, ties into the north-south and east-west spines. The design intention is to bring vehicles TO but not THROUGH the site.

**GREEN CORRIDORS**  
Each of the primary thoroughfares entering and exiting the City Center are enhanced with greenways. At the southeast, a V-shaped green forms a view corridor to Lingyan Mountain.

**CORE**  
The core is defined by the 3 primary thoroughfares. The two yellow stars represent the tallest buildings within the development, with both towers terminating vistas from the north and south entries.

**CIRCLE BOULEVARD**  
A tree-lined boulevard encircles the core connecting the neighborhoods. This thoroughfare links a series of small pocket parks and gardens that are planned within the development.

**MIXED-USE**  
Between the Circle Boulevard and core the mid-rise mixed-use zone supports activities and provides services essential to the sustainability of the core.

**LOW-DENSITY RING**  
The periphery of the boulevard consists of low-density mixed-use rowhouses that front public gardens and waterfront edges that surrounds the City Center.

**RIBBON DRIVE**  
The City Center is wrapped with a continuous thoroughfare which accommodates a circulating tram. This green edge links to internal park, serves as recreation space, and manages storm-water run-off.

**MASTER PLAN**

In addition to striving to create a beautiful, functional and sustainable environment, the Luhe City Center Master Plan recognizes the need for maximum efficiency — essential to the implementation process in China. A utility tunnel is proposed under the thoroughfare network that permits access to every city block to facilitate maintenance, repair, and upgrading of utilities and services, with minimum disruption to daily life. The electrical sub station is located at the north-east corner, adjacent to the highway interchange.



Mr. Dhiru Thadani receives the award for the Ghent Project (photo: Anna Khodyreva)



Finally, a **special mention** was awarded to: Liupanshui Minghu Wetland Park Project. Project submitted by: Turenscape, and College of Architecture and Landscape, Peking University, China

As an element of a **major campaign of environmental improvement** the city government commissioned the landscape architects to develop a holistic strategy to address multiple serious problems (e.g. water pollution, flood plain management, creation of public space).

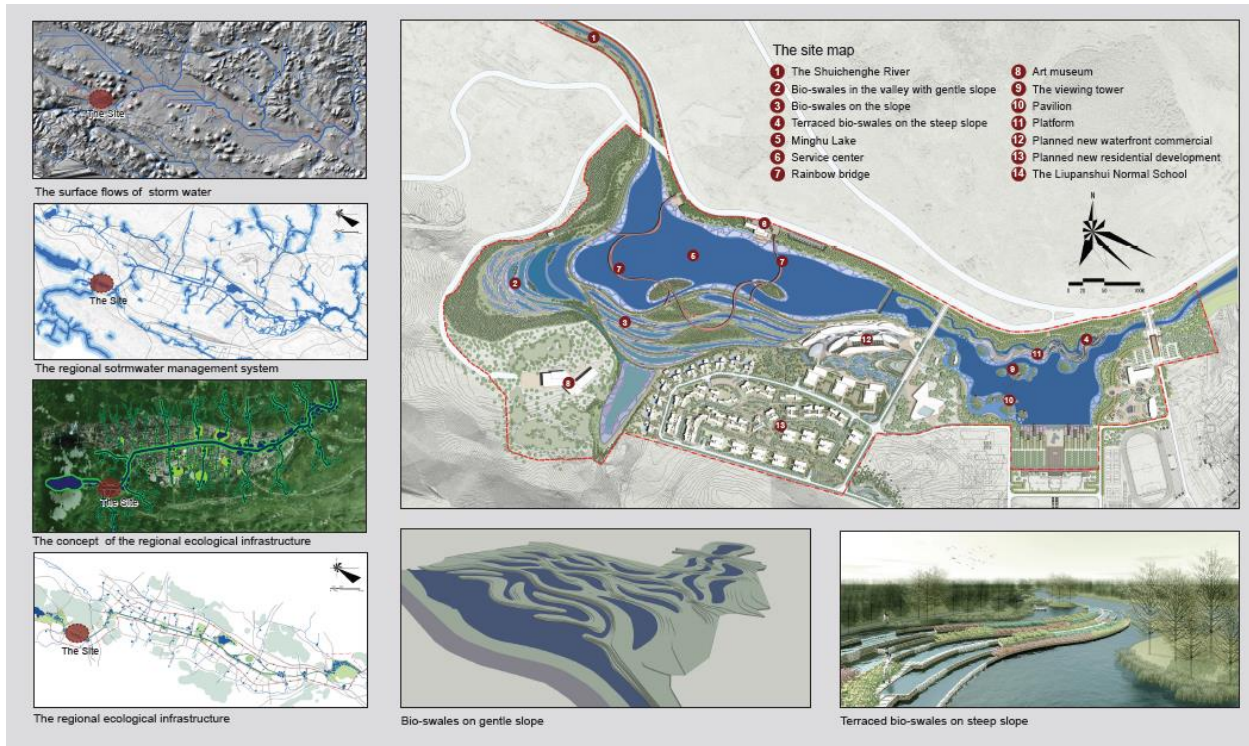


Figure 2: Site map and design concept: The Minghu Wetland Park is a part of the regional ecological infrastructure that is planned to remove the nutrients and other pollutants by slowing down water flow, restore native habitats, as well as create public green space for both recreation and better pedestrian connectivity. The planning and design studies above demonstrate both regional and parcel scale efforts to create an integrated system. The two key tactics to slow down water flow are namely bio-swales and terraced wetlands designed to better conform to the existing topography.

Considering the high quality of all received proposals, ISOCARP is assessing the hypothesis of publishing a book presenting the entries for the “Awards of Excellence” and “Sam van Embden Awards”.