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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

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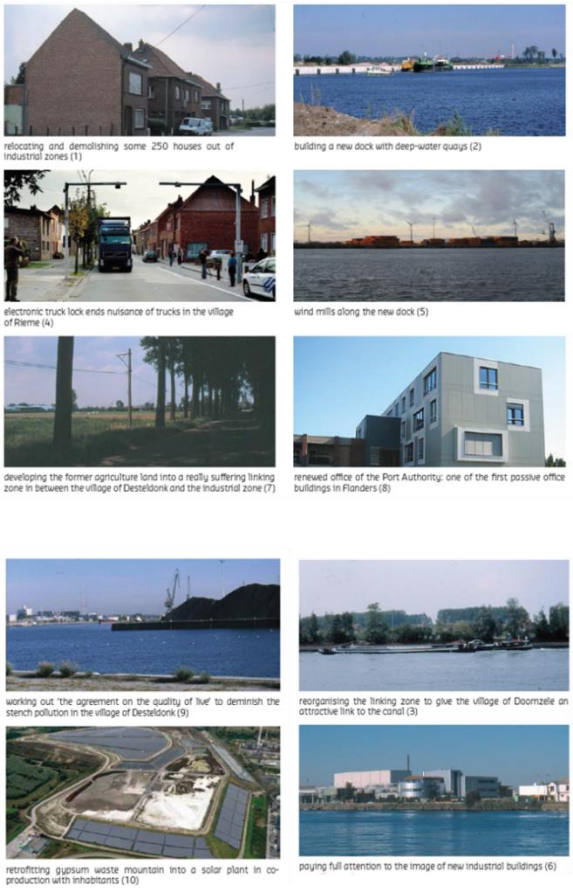
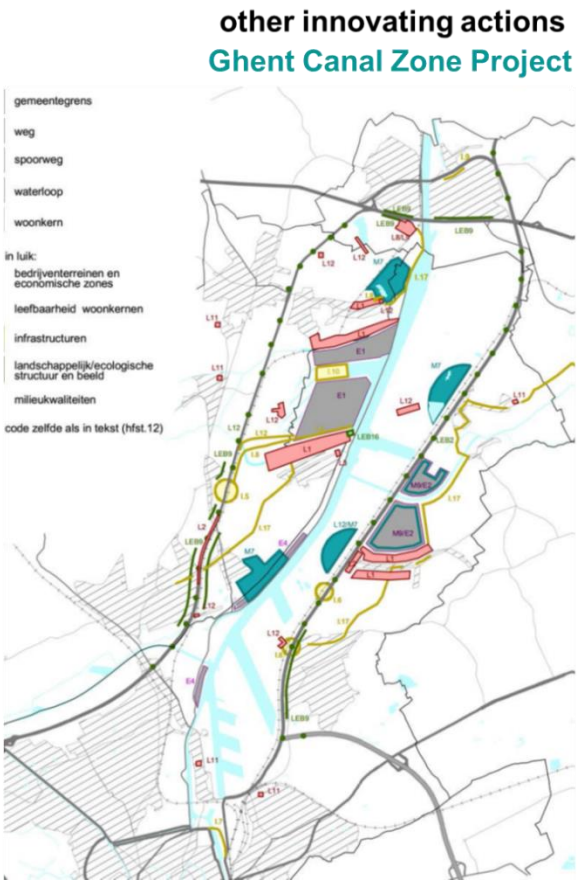
The **1st place** was awarded to: The Ghent Canal Zone Project – a spatial, environmental and economic development process in an industrialized urban area.
Project submitted by: Omgeving.

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





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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

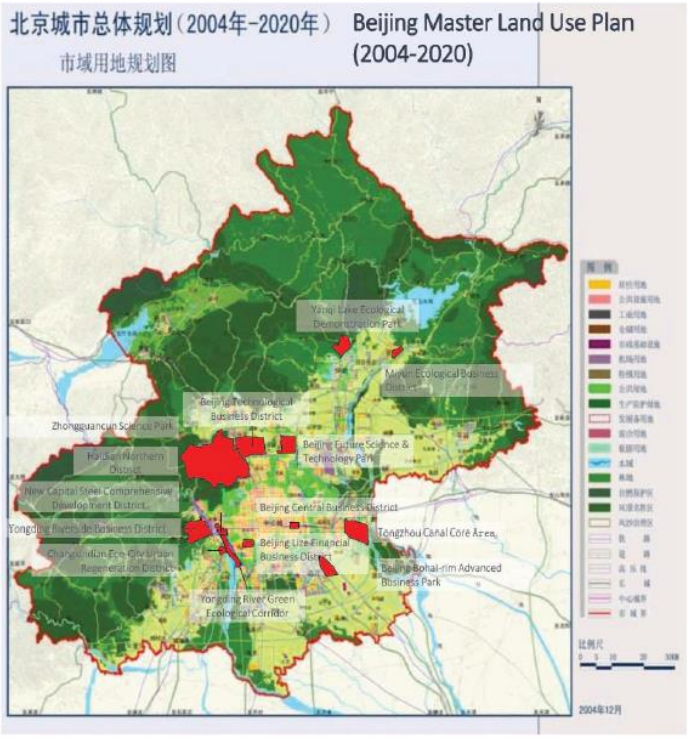

Figure 1: City of Beijing – Proposed Green Eco-Districts Locations

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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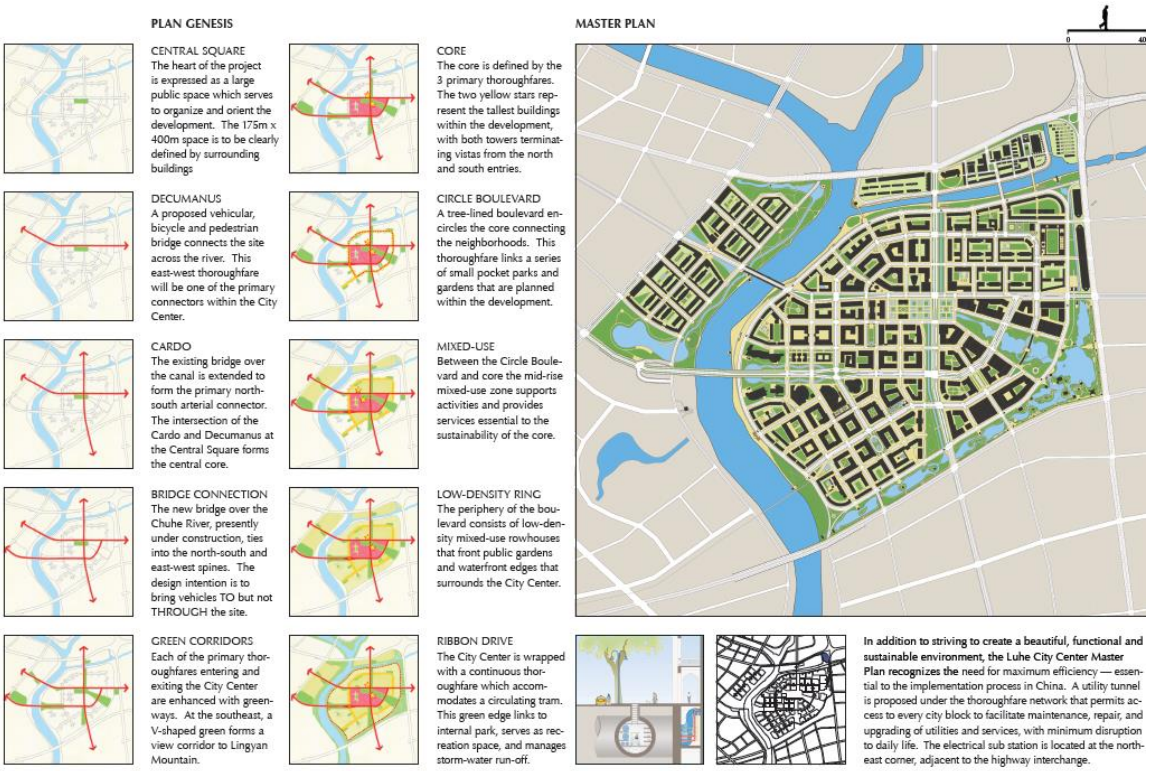
The **3rd place** was conferred to the project: Luhe City Center. Project submitted by: TAU (Thadani Architects + Urbanists).
The project makes a sound analysis of the Luhe city center and propose a set of solutions for its **requalification**.



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).

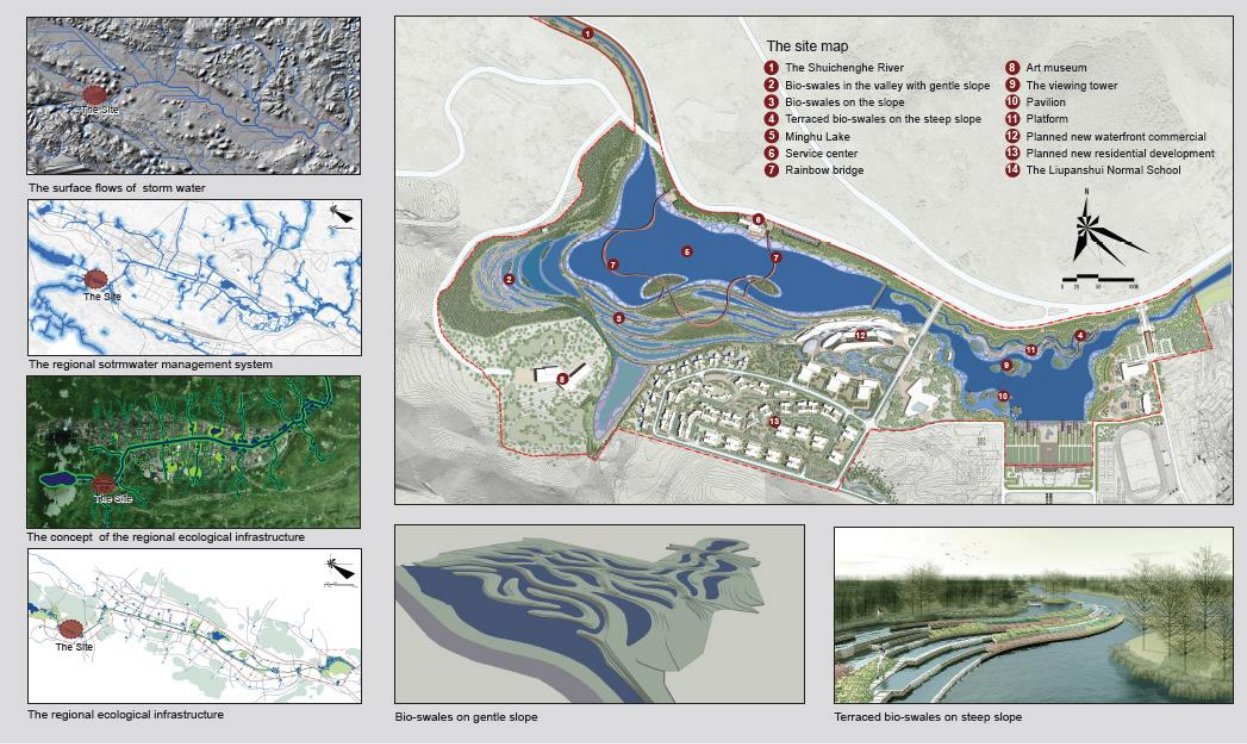


Figure2:Site map and design concept: The Minghu Wetland Park is a part of the regional ecological infrastructure that is planned to remove the nutrients and other pollutants by slowing down water flow, restore native habitats, as well as create public green space for both recreation and better pedestrian 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”.