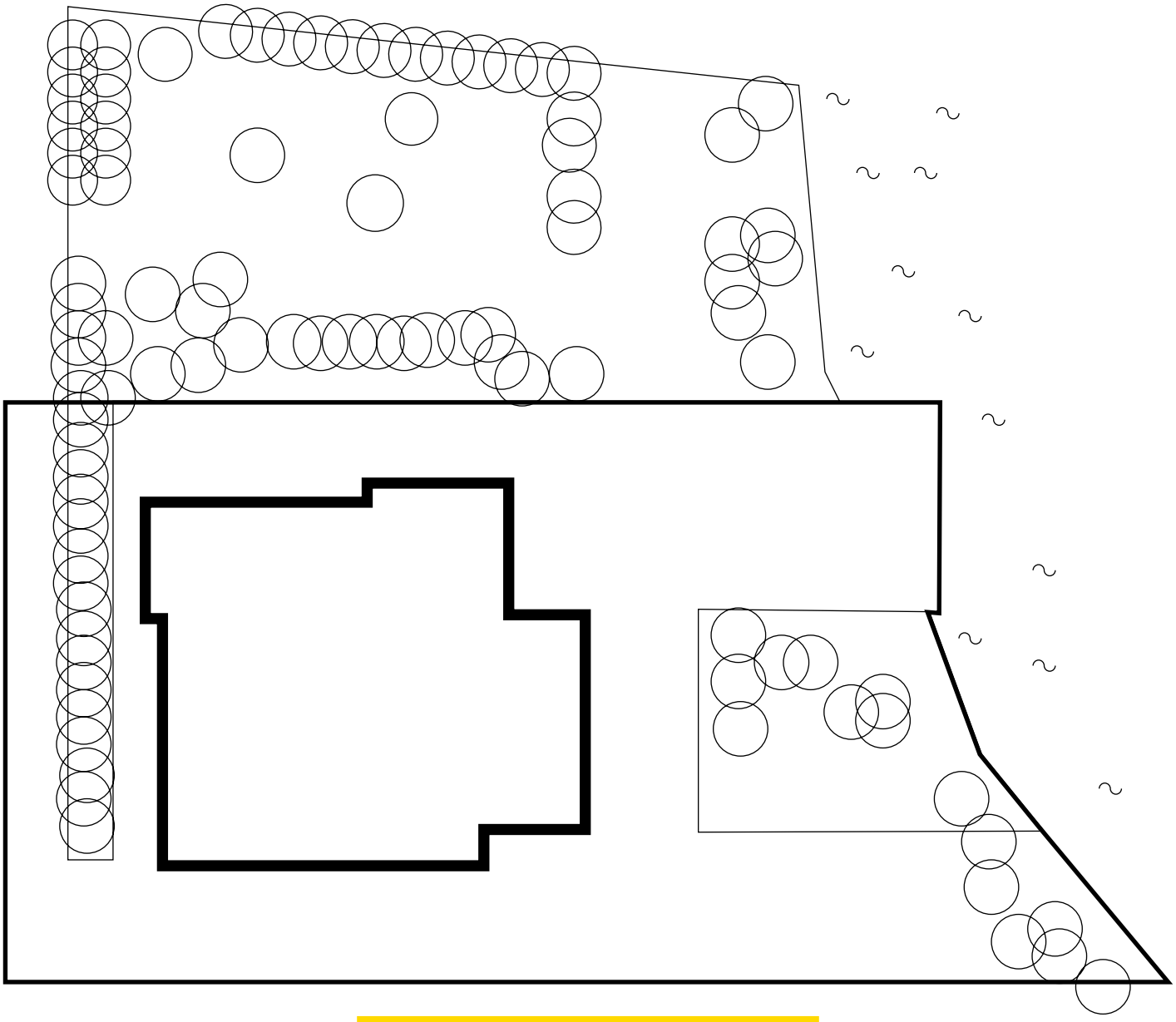
Tartu Downtown Cultural Centre Architecture Competition



JURY
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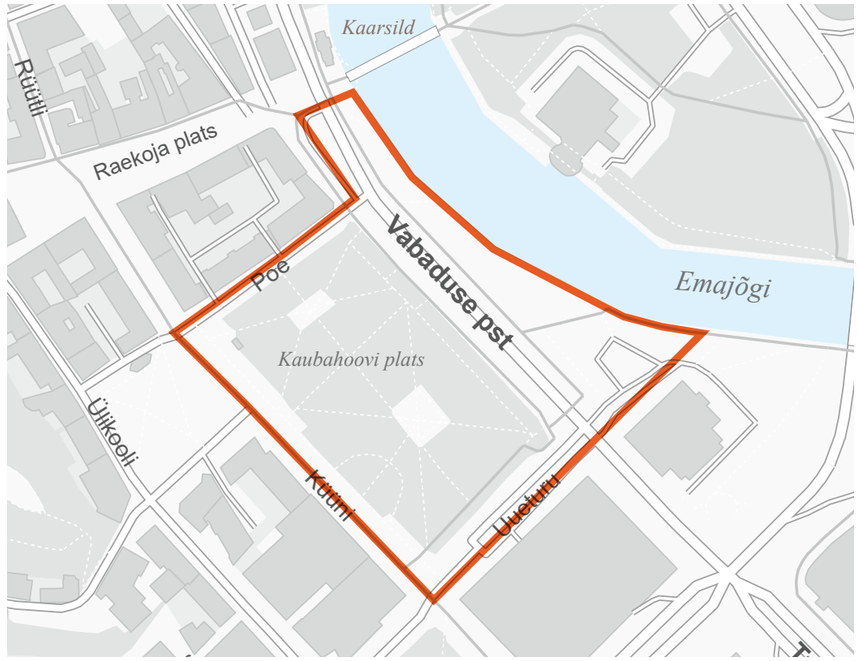
30.06.2023



COMPETITION AREA (MARKED WITH RED LINE) SOURCE: COMPETITION TASK

The aim of the architectural competition was to find the best architectural solution for the construction of the Tartu Downtown Cultural Centre, which would fit into the given location and environment and form a whole with the urban space along the river Emajõgi. The task of the participants was to design a building for a city library, art museum, event centre with a multifunctional large hall, and other rooms supporting the cultural centre, along with a biodiverse and diverse park landscape and a human-scale public space.

Jury work description

The jury based their work on the point "9.2. Assessment of conceptual designs." from the Rules of Design Contest. The jury's work took place in different rounds. Before the first round of the jury's work, the jury members independently reviewed all conceptual designs under consideration. Before awarding the prize-winning spots, experts from various fields gave an expert assessment to the works of the second round. For deciding the final ranking, the experts gave an additional expert assessment to the works that reached the prize-winning positions. The jury unanimously decided the competition results in all rounds.

Decision of prizes

The jury decided to award the first prize to the competition entry "PAABEL", the second prize to the competition entry "TARTE TATIN" and the third prize to the competition entry "ROHELINE KULTUURIKESKUS". The jury decided to assign incentive prizes to the competition entries "AED", "PUIDUST SILUETT" and "THE LINE AND THE DOT".

The jury decided to give honorary mention to the competition entries "MAASTIKUGA SEOTUD MÄLESTUSED" and "VÄIKE METS", which are not rewarded with a monetary reward, but whose architectural concept deserves to be highlighted separately.

Distribution of the awards:

First prize/winner – award size 60 000 euros – „PAABEL"
Second prize – award size 40 000 euros – „TARTE TATIN"
Third prize – award size 20 000 euros – „ROHELINE KULTUURIKESKUS"
Incentive prize – award size 10 000 euros – „AED"
Incentive prize – award size 10 000 euros – „PUIDUST SILUETT"
Incentive prize – award size 10 000 euros – „THE LINE AND THE DOT"

In the following, the evaluations of the jury and experts have been attached to the award-winning designs and designs with honorary mention. The order of the competition entries that have received an incentive award and have received an honorary mention are organised alphabetically.

Jury members:

Urmas Klaas, Mayor of Tartu, Chairman of the Jury
Tõnis Arjus, Tartu city architect, Vice Chairman of the Jury, chartered architect
Priit Metsjärv, Head of Construction Service at Tartu City Government
Kristina Pai, Director of Tartu Public Library
Joanna Hoffmann, Director of Tartu Art Museum
Enrique Sobejano, Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos, architect
Martin Allik, Mareld Landskapsarkitekter, landscape architect
Tõnu Laigu, QP Arhitektid, chartered architect-expert
Veronika Valk-Siska, Ministry of Climate, Head of Housing Policy, chartered architect-expert

Experts (no voting rights):

Elo Kiivet, Chartered architect, Author of the Competition Task
Kunnar Jürgenson, Head of the Tartu City Government's Property Department
Sten Svetljakov, Head of Tartu City Government's Cultural Department
Egle Tamm, Cultural Heritage Service, Chief Specialist of Heritage Conservation
Ülo Treikelder, Deputy Director of Tartu City Library, Library Expert
Katre Riisalu, Estonian National Library, Library Expert
Nele Ambos, Tartu Art Museum, Museum Expert
Rain Raabel, Tallinn City Theatre's Building management, Event Centre Expert
Aivar Sirelpuu, Alexela Concert Hall's Managing Director, Event Centre Expert
Dirk Nijdam, Forum Groningen, Director, Cultural Centre Expert
Aveliina Helm, Nordic Botanical, Biodiversity Expert
Mart Meriste, Nordic Botanical, Biodiversity Expert
Jüri Järve, MTÜ Ligipääsetavuse Foorum, Accessibility Expert
Villu Urban, MTÜ Ligipääsetavuse Foorum, Accessibility Expert
Kajar Laus, Rovalis, Fire Safety Expert
Marko Potsepp, E-Eelarvestus, Construction Cost Expert
Kimmo Lylykangas, Taltech University, CO2 Footprint Expert
Anni Oviir, Taltech University, CO2 Footprint Expert
Targo Kalamees, Taltech University, Energy Efficiency Expert
Ivo Roolaht, Roolaht ja Partnerid, Structural Expert

Name of the procurement:
Tartu Downtown Cultural Centre Architecture Competition

Reference number: 256955

The competition was held:
02.01.2023–05.05.2023

Arranger:
Tarty City Government in cooperation with Estonian Association of Architects

Jury meetings:
22.05.2023 kell 10.00–14.00 in web
23.05.2023 kell 10.00–14.00 in web
15.06.2023 kell 09.00–17.00
Raekoja plats 6, Tartu
16.06.2023 kell 09.00–14.00
Raekoja plats 6, Tartu
30.06.2023 kell 12.00–13.00 in web

102 competition entries were evaluated

Jury secretaries / protocol authors (no voting rights):
Maria Freimann, architect
Juhan Kangilaski, architect

I prize

„Paabel“

General feedback:

“PAABEL” is an architectural solution that is clearly distinct from other works and comprehensively designed. The building has a very strong urban planning concept, with the new square space sensitively referring to the solution of the historically located market square, thus keeping the historical memory of the place. The solution takes into account the role of the new cultural centre building as an enhancer of wider cultural life and the role of a new symbolic building in the urban space, creating an effective main entrance towards Emajõgi, which, together with the public square, runs as an uninterrupted pedestrian space across Vabadus boulevard to the river. The concept of the outdoor space of the site plan is comprehensive and balanced, meeting all important goals from the point of view of both the richness of life and the functional use of urban space. The building takes into account the human dimension in the space, merging well with the surrounding urban space on each side and activating the street space with several entrances. The central spacious interior space running through the building creates an important “heart of the building” in the context of the new cultural centre, which is very important for the organiser of the competition to create synergy between different functions. Various functions are conveniently located when entering the centre from both directions. “PAABEL” can best capture the competition’s goals and solve them at the same time with an elegant architectural language and professional technical execution. The competition entry already takes into account the logical layout of the structures, and the logistics between the different room groups have been thoroughly worked out. Thanks to the thorough technical implementation, you can be sure that the strong architectural idea proposed in the competition entry will be preserved in the future design. The outdoor space solution is clear and the different levels of biodiversity have been thoroughly thought out, with several special solutions such as insect paths or a fruit garden, creating an important added value to the park area in the form of a multi-layered high-quality environment.

Competition entry visual quality is high-level and the work is professional.

Opinions of the jury and experts, strengths (+) and weaknesses (–) of the competition entry:

+ A strong urban planning concept, restoring the motif of the historic market square and reviving the spatial memory.
+ An effective entrance solution and a public square on the river side, which is at the same time connected to the active Küün street zone through an attractive internal passage of the building.
+ The interior of the building is very effective and tastefully designed. The library runs through the entire building, and although the museum is located in the basement floor it can be quickly found in the central heart of the building.
+ The building connects the surrounding urban space, the 1st floor is active and has many entrances. Various functions can be conveniently found in both directions.
+ The facade of the building is interesting and articulated to match the surrounding urban environment.
+ A thoroughly presented outdoor space concept. A pervasive focus on promoting biodiversity. A good balance between actively used green areas and less used areas.
+ All actively used areas (play and sports attractions) clearly along one central sidewalk, leaving a large part of the green area remote and more natural.
+ The use of ponds in landscaping significantly increases the richness of life.
+ Thanks to the additional landscaping and the narrowing of Vabaduse street, the ecological coherence between the riverside areas, Keskpark and Barclay Park has improved significantly compared to the present.
+ A large, largely untouched green roof.
+ A logically thought-out solution from the point of view of accessibility, takes into account changes in the height of the landscape, e.g. flat access roads lead to the promenade from the representative square and Uueturu street.
+ Thoroughly thought out solution of constructions, logistics and interrelationships of different room groups.
+ Backstage rooms and artists’ waiting areas are in close proximity to the stages, and there are several entrances to the large stage. There is also a warehouse in close proximity to the stage.
– The project has a lot in mind for biodiversity, but the green experiences need further design.
– The trucks serving the building have been moved underground, requiring a very high floor height and this needs exploring alternatives.
– On Uueturu street in the direction of Vanemuise street, pedestrian access to the river is intermittent, which can be detailed in further design.
– the youth square area on Uueturu street is mostly a parking lot/car-oriented area.
– The need for escalators in the building is questionable, but the solution is easy to change

ASENDIPLAA

Jury's proposals for the further design of the first place competition entry "PAABEL"

In further design, solutions for landscape architecture, including biodiversity, nature experiences and general safety and accessibility need to be specified. The possibility of building an outdoor swimming pool needs to be specified. Vehicle logistics, including the parking lot of the market building, the bus stop area, and the comfortable movement of pedestrians on Uueturu street also need clarification. It should be considered combining wood with other materials in the solution of the building structures in order to achieve the most cost-effective overall solution. The logistics of the building's rooms based on the user's needs should be specified. The volume of the building from the point of view of the efficiency of space use should be optimised. The solution for servicing oversized cargo should be specified.

II prize

„Tarte Tatin“

General feedback:

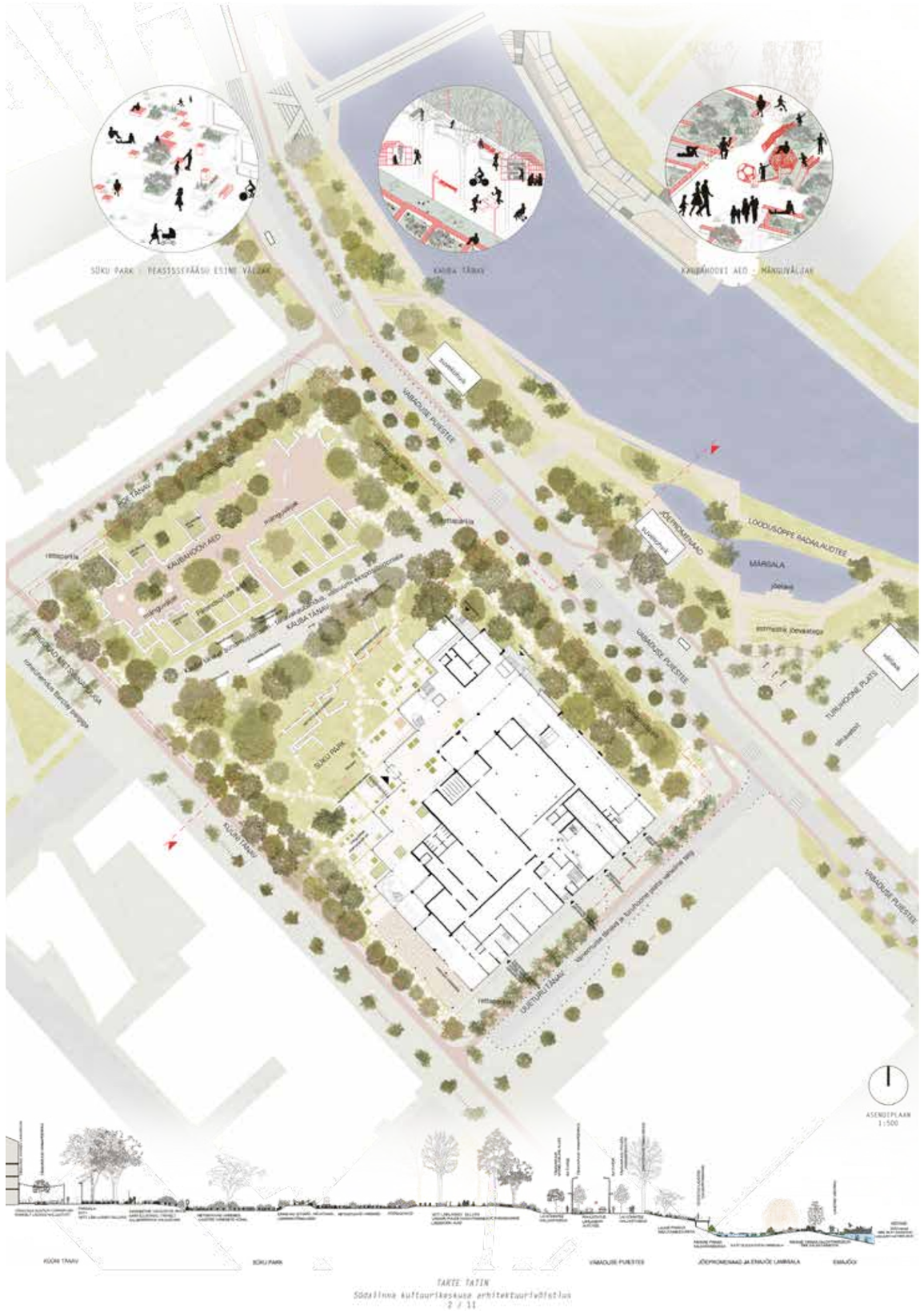
The competition entry “TARTE TATIN” stands out from other works due to its clear and well-developed modular architectural style. Rhythmizing the building as modules creates diverse facades and articulates the large volume of the building in the urban space. The cantilevered building front facing the park has an attractive and inviting effect, bringing the large volume of the building to a human scale. The suitable long lobby area zones well the different user groups of the building, while logistically connecting different parts of the building. Functionally, the building is very well structured. An exciting concept is to emphasise the historic walls as part of the landscape architecture of the park. One of the best competition entries from the art museum perspective , while the library is only on one side of the building and opens only on the upper level. Also, the library is quite generally arranged, it is not clear whether everything will definitely fit. The loading area is well designed and the warehouses are located on the same level as the halls.

Competition entry visual quality is high-level and the work is professional.

Opinions of the jury and experts, strengths (+) and weaknesses (–) of the competition entry:

+ The exciting modular architectural language and articulated facade make the large building volume more human-sized.
+ The cantilevered building front on the park side has an attractive and inviting effect.
+ Diverse and interesting outdoor space. The concept of the area along the Emajõgi River has been well developed.
+ The well-suited long lobby area zones well the different user groups of the building, while acting as a connecting space.
+ The warehouses of the halls are located on the same level as the halls. The warehouse of the great hall is located in the immediate vicinity of the stage. Backstage is located near the stages and is on the same level as the stages.
+ The roof is walkable and landscaped, and a separate sitting area is designed in the recess.
+ Logistics inside the building and orientation in the building are well thought out.

– Due to the lobby of the building, the building does not have a clear main entrance and centre, which would help make the building more visible and inviting in the urban space. Also, the entrances are located in the middle of the park area, too far from the adjacent streets, which makes it difficult for people to reach the building naturally.
– Throughout the entire library, only classic reader workplaces (chair+table) in various configurations are planned. It is not possible to understand what the library concept is in the project. A more detailed division of departments and rooms is missing.
– The height of the building +18 m exceeds the permitted height on the side of Küüni Street by 1 m, but it is possible to lower the solution by 1 m on this side, as the building has characteristic height steps.
– Under the protruding parts of the building, it is not possible to achieve completely natural conditions (precipitation, light regime) and therefore it is doubtful how easy it is to green them in the usual way.
– Although the area of Keskpark to be preserved is large and, thanks to the reconstruction of Vabaduse street, it is much better landscaped than the current one with green areas along the river, the effect achieved is significantly reduced by the large and presumably paved playground.
– Accessibility solutions have not been thought through in sufficient detail, there are many solutions with stairs in the outdoor space, which makes moving with a wheelchair difficult. The cobblestone pavement of Kauba street is not suitable for people with mobility aids and is also uncomfortable for other people.
– The gross height of the upper floors is 4 m, i.e. the net height of the room is approx. 3.00–3.30 m including ventilation and acoustic ceiling. The height of the room remains a little too low.



TARTE TATIN
Südalinna kultuurikeskuse arhitektuurivõistlus
2 / 11

↑ Õhustvaade põhja suunast: Roheline kultuurikeskus, elurikkuse park ja jõeäärsed huviväärsused. Aerial view seen from north with The Green Hub, biodiverse park and the river attractors.

III prize

„Roheline kultuurikeskus“

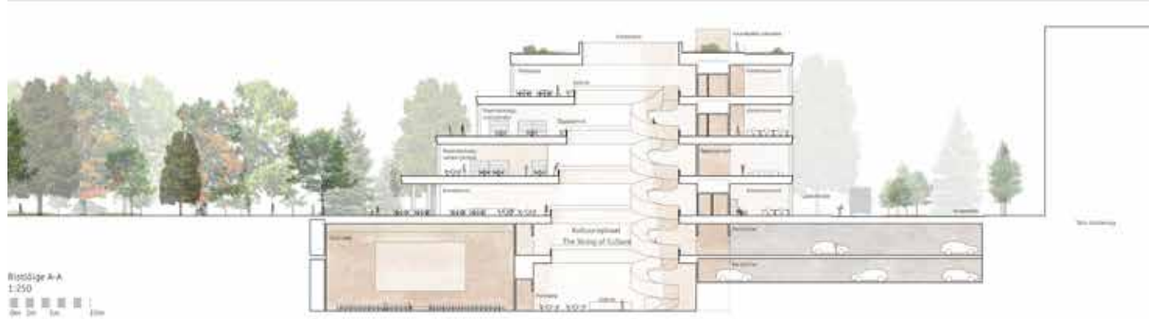
General feedback:

The competition entry “ROHELINE KULTUURIKESKUS” stands out from the others with its thoroughly worked out park area solution and detailed design. The architectural volume of the building does not have a dominant effect on the urban space and is solved with very exciting curved steps, which makes the spatial impact of the building volume smaller. The clear placement of the building on the side of the department store leaves a large open park area free, which increases the richness of life and creates a very strong connection between Barclay park and the riverside green space. An interesting solution is also to move the front of the building on the river side to the historical building line and thus greatly reduce the spatial impact of the car driveway on Vabaduse street. The interior of the building is well organised around a central sculptural staircase. The main drawback is the lack of a structural solution for the building and the excessive compression of the event centre and museum areas. In the building, the necessary logistics surface has been sacrificed to achieve volumetric airiness in the urban space, which makes solving internal logistics difficult. The logistics of the basement and loading areas is very incomplete and changing it can significantly change the building solution and the exterior design.

Competition entry visual quality is high-level and the work is professional.

Opinions of the jury and experts, strengths (+) and weaknesses (–) of the competition entry:

+ A very thoroughly developed concept of the park area and biodiversity.
+ The small ground volume of the building allows a large part of the park area to be preserved.
+ The grass area is minimal and in logical places. The paths through the park are of a reasonable width and are designed as cascades of so-called pocket parks, maximising people’s contact with the greenery rich in life.
+ A large part of the roof is a green roof, while also being accessible to people for green experiences.
± The central sculptural staircase in the interior is an attractive solution, but as the main axis of movement it seems awkward and would need a bigger gathering space around it.
– The building is intended for a library and the synergy with the museum and an event centre has not gotten enough attention
– In the building, the necessary surface has been sacrificed to achieve spatial airiness, which makes it difficult to solve internal logistics.
– Access to the art museum and event spaces by service trucks remains unresolved. Exhibition halls and storage rooms are connected by narrow corridors. In the basement (-1st and -2nd floors) the location of a large freight elevator is shown, but there is no access to them.
– All basement logistics and planning should be played around to a significant extent to ensure functional performance, achieving this without breaking the integrity of the design is doubtful.
– Moving from the warehouse in the small hall along the narrow corridor. The doors of the hall and the warehouse are not in the same place in the small hall, which makes it difficult to move things to the stage. The halls are very close to each other, which requires very high acoustic isolation.
– The constructive solution of the building is not sufficiently described, the structural part has questionable solutions. Since the load bearing structure impacts the space divisions in a significant manner, the additional structures might change the architectural design in a significant way.
– The exterior design of the building uses a lot of wood, including facade boards and solar panels, which are not protected from the weather. It leads to high maintenance and routine repair costs.
– The building on the Küüni street side seems somewhat taller than allowed, but it can be brought into line with the conditions, because there is a roof terrace on the Küüni street side, which is surrounded by the continuing roofless part of the facade, which can be built lower if necessary or omitted.
– The destination of Vanemuise street does not extend to the river, and there is no clear urban square area in the lush park. Few functional places for activities in the park space. The riverfront has been left intact from the overall concept and designed as a concrete paved promenade as it is today.



Ristlõige A-A
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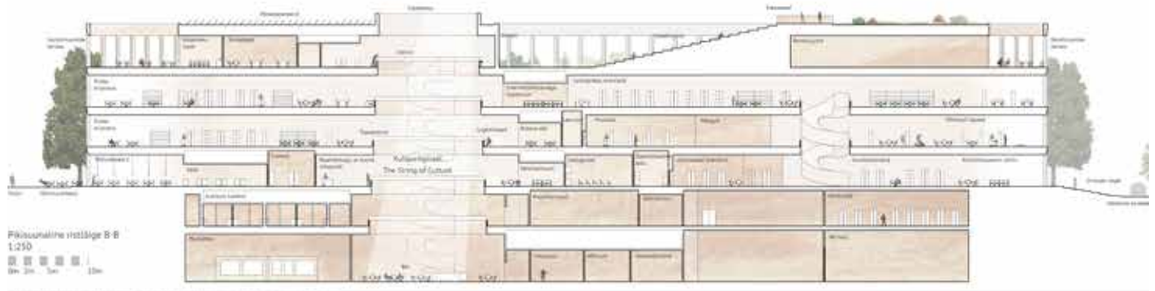


Pikisuunaline ristlõige B-B
1:250

↓ Peamine aatrium - Kultuurispiraal The main atrium - The String of Culture

Incentive prize

„Aed“

General feedback:

The competition entry “AED” is a professional work, the concept of which is very clear and urban spatial decisions are well perceived. The strength of the project is the interior, which is very elegantly designed. The library reading areas have space and spaciousness as most functions are on one level. The general layout and logistics of the rooms are clear. The open floor is also very inviting to the outside, while the solution of the urban space around the building has remained superficial and does not form an understandable whole, and the rethinking of Vabaduse street and the riverside has not been done.

Competition entry visual quality is high-level and the work is professional.

Opinions of the jury and experts, strengths (+) and weaknesses (–) of the competition entry:

+ The interior is elegant, the spatial solution of the library is strong and well thought out.
+ In-house logistics are good.
+ The entrance to the building and the playground area on the Poe street side is a good and attractive solution.
+ Entrance to the parking lot has a minimal impact on urban space.
+ The loading area is of sufficient size and can serve several large cars at the same time.

– The public space is too monotonous. Uueturu street is an empty stone field, pedestrian traffic is unresolved.
– The park area is small, the building dominates the natural environment. Attempts have been made to preserve the large park trees, but the trees are located too close to the building and will be damaged in any case.
– The greening of the roof is monotonous. Roof greening promotes biodiversity, but it does not allow city dwellers to enjoy green life, as it is inaccessible to people.
– The street space and the riverside of Vabaduse street have not been dealt with.
– The chosen architectural language is not convincing, it is rather decorative, and in the given location it has the effect of amplifying the size of the building volume, not softening it.
– The museum is not located on the same floor as the library, there could be a better logistical connection to create synergy.
– The auxiliary rooms of the halls are not very well thought out, and moving the decorations into the small hall is difficult through small doors and a narrow corridor.
– Large trucks have been moved to the basement floor, which is a complex and financially costly decision. The height of the cars is 4.8 m. The size of the loading area has turned out to be an unreasonably large area, i.e. 1045 m^2.
– There are large openings on the second floor and the load-bearing post system is not shown in the drawings. The explanatory letter refers to the sets of glulam posts to be added. The so-called “bridge” solution, which makes the cost of the building unreasonably high, adds 20% to 30% to the construction cost.
– There are no technical room(s) in the building, including ventilation equipment on the 1st or 2nd floor.

1. AJALOOLINE ASUKOHT

1. Võistluseks asub ajaloolise Tartu vanalinna vahetus läheduses, kuhu oleksid Tartu linnakodanikud sõlmed, meie lähelu tahtsida ja entre käivitada.

2. Ajaloolise huvenne pakkumine võistlusalast enne Tõtst Maailmasõda. Selle aeg jooksel energiti tänaseks hävinenud ajaloolist Kaubu tänavat.

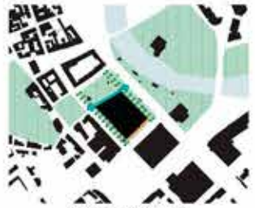
3. Vaadet Võidu sillalt Tartu Raekojale on oluline säilitada.

2. KESKPARK OLEVIKUS

Võistlusala ajalooline huvoneiu hävines Teise Maailmasõja käigus, peale mida ehitati sinna uus Kesknark. Pargis on olemasolevad puudealleed, teste risingorõljak ja diagonaalsed jalakäiku rajad, mis ühendavad Võidu tänavat Emajõe kaldaga. Park funktsioneeri ilmkeem kui tähtsak, entre kui populaarne kohi vaba aja veetmiseks.

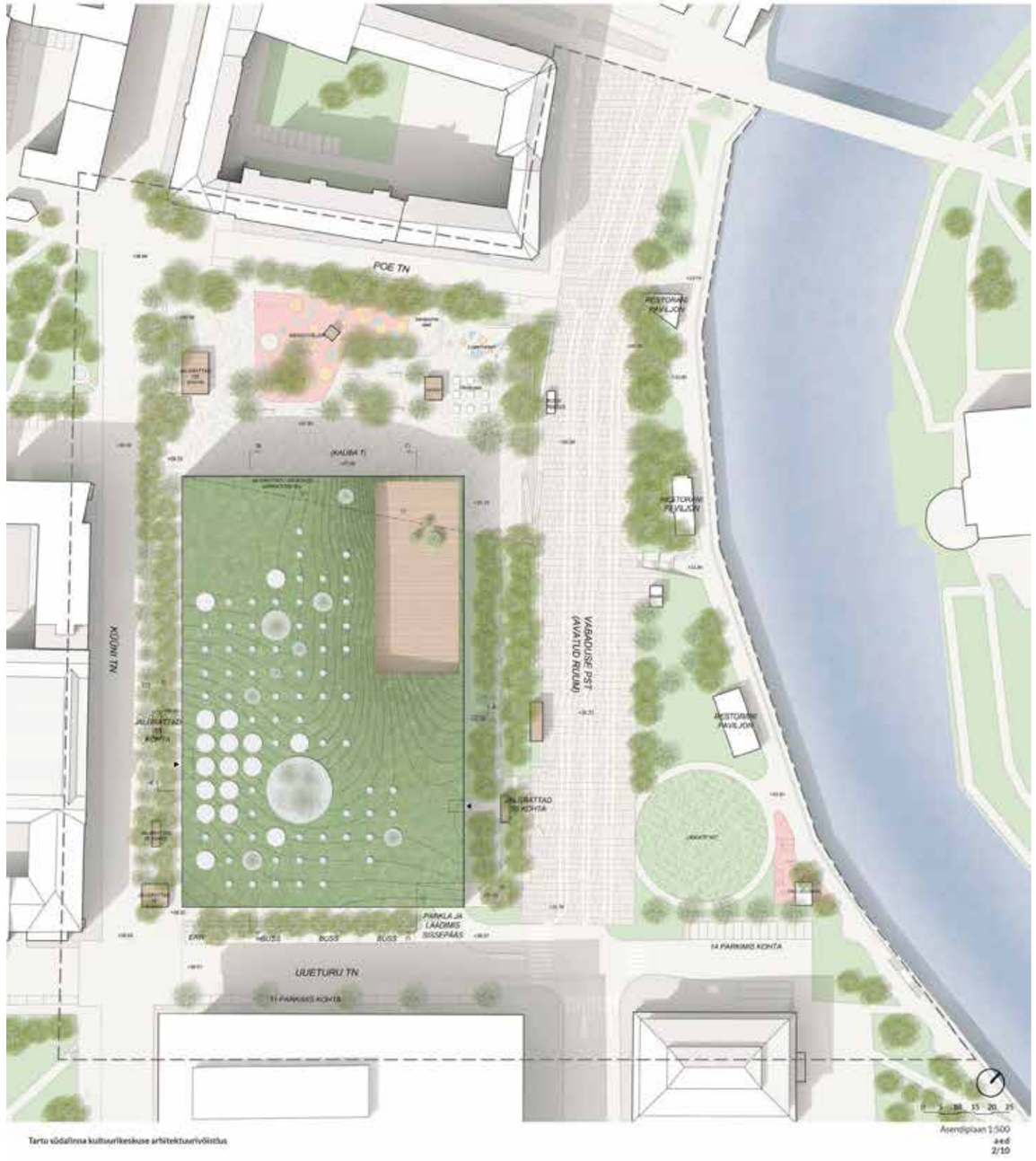
3. TULEVIKU PARK

Tartu Uus Südalinna kultuurikeskus "aed" loob sinna arhitektuuri se lahendusega uue maadilku, mis on kui pikendus olemasolevast pargist hoone interjöörl. Arukuse otsor on puigutatud välisruumidesse ja avitpuiduimid, mis mogutavad kultuurikeskuse erinevate funktsioonide ümnepidur. Peaöjaimid lainnevad hoonest välja ümbi fromuone parkikuni Emajõe kaldani. Kaubu tänav on taastatud kui jalakäijate tee. Küsiri tänavalt läbi pargi kuni Vabaduse puiesteeni ja Emajõe kaldani.



4. KULTUURIKESKUS "aed"

Uue Südalinna Kultuurikeskuse hoone põhijõuan on asukoha ajaloo- olemasolevu ilmkjuargi ja ajaloolise Kaubu tänava jooneili ja olemasolevate puudealleie säilitamise tulem.



Tartu südalinna kultuurikeskuse arhitektuurivõistlus

Asendiplaan 1:500
aed
2/10

Incentive prize

„Puidust siluett“

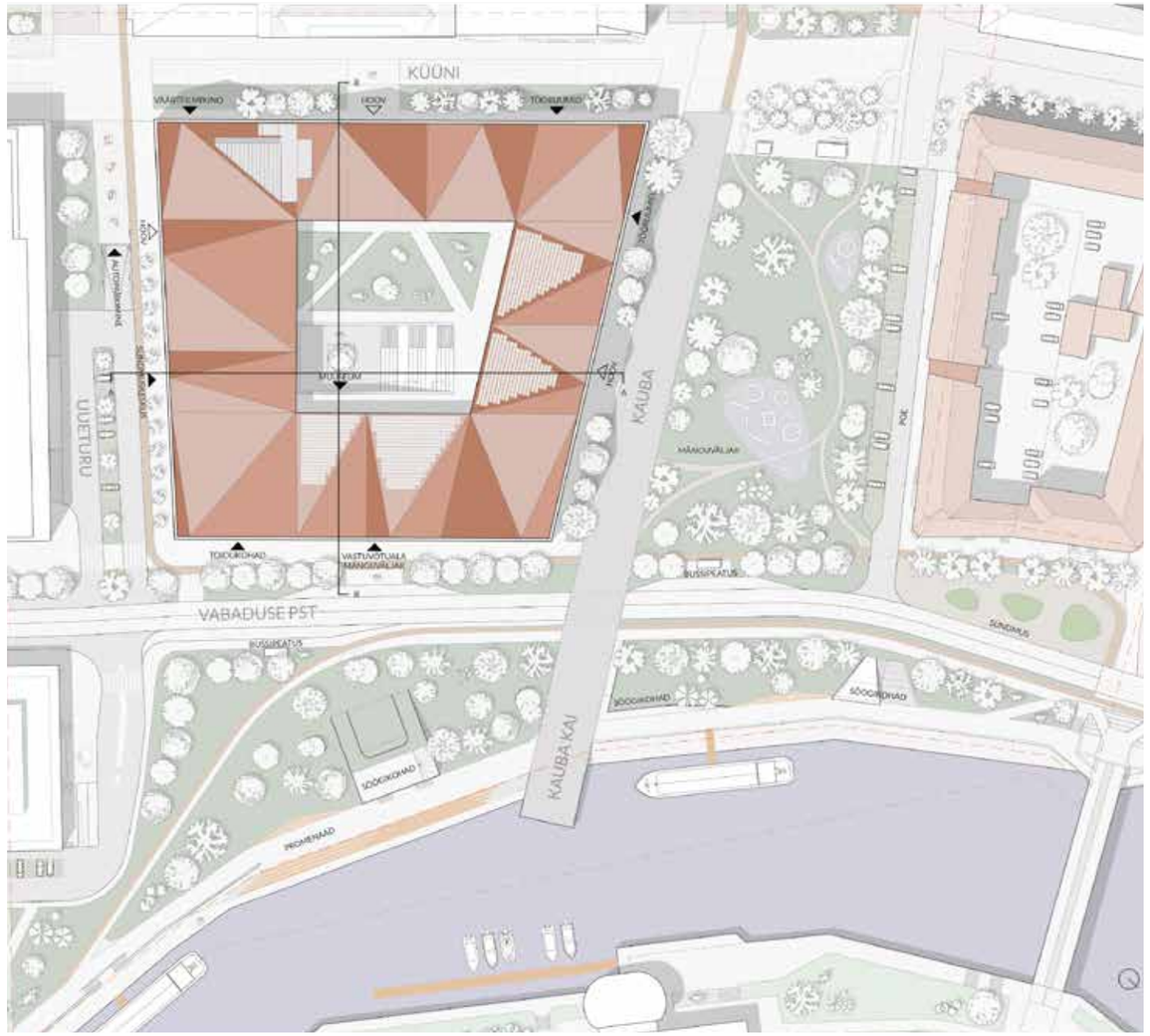
General feedback:

“PUIDUST SILUETT” is very clear in its architectural concept and stands out from other works with its strong idea of a roof landscape silhouette. The visuals of the building are high level and the architectural language of the silhouette are very elegant and enjoyable. The historic building silhouette done with the roof structure is interesting, but the courtyard makes the building visually massive. The courtyard helps to bring natural light to most of the rooms, but it makes the internal walkways quite long. Placing the library on one level is positive, which makes the use of the space comfortable and flexible. Küüni street and the area along the Emajõgi river are connected by a clear pedestrian axis, and the stepped area along the Emajõgi river is well thought out. Parking and logistics are well thought out. At the same time, the courtyard does not create a very clear added value and only reduces the integrity of the large park area and makes the building very dominant over the surrounding environment.

Competition entry visual quality is high-level and the work is professional.

Opinions of the jury and experts, strengths (+) and weaknesses (–) of the competition entry:

+ The architectural concept is clear and distinct. The motif of the silhouette is elegant and finely drawn.
+ Biodiversity is generally discussed in the project description. A lot of existing trees are preserved. It is planned to reduce the width of Vabaduse street in order to make the green corridor work. The area of the existing parking lots will also be significantly reduced.
+ Technical servicing and transport is done from the same level as the stages. Backstage, make-up rooms are located on the same level as the stages and in close proximity.
+ From the library’s point of view, being located on one level is convenient and increases accessibility, allowing for a comprehensive design of the area
– The building does not have a definite centre and the courtyard alone cannot fill it, as the outdoor space is not in active use for a large part of the year.
– The logistics of the building are not good, too long connecting roads.
– The access to the promenade from the end of Uueturu street is unresolved, Vanemuise street does not continue to the river.
– The arrangement of the furniture in the library is too rigid – shelves as separate zones and reader workstations as large areas, there is no variety, niches or separation possibilities.
– There are elevators in the immediate vicinity of the halls, which require very thorough acoustic insulation. Moving from the warehouse in a small hall through a very small door in the hall and from an impractical place in relation to the hall.
– The exterior design of the building uses a lot of glulam, including sun screens and support poles, which are not protected from the weather. It leads to high maintenance and routine repair costs.
– The interior design and construction of the building uses a lot of glulam and CLT, which makes the construction cost high.
– The building’s stone roofs are complex and sometimes have too little of a slope, and the use of roof stones causes problems.


KÜÜNI
VAJUTE MINUNO
HOIDV
TÕUKURUMID
AUTOJUHTIMINE
SÕIDURADADE
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MUUSEUM
TÖÖKOHAD
VASTUVÕTUALA MANGUVÄLJAK
KAUBA
MÄNGUVÄLJAK
POK
BUSSIPEATUS
VABADUSE PST
SÕIDURADADE
KAUBA KAI
PROMENAAD

SÜDALINNA KULTUURIKESKUS

KUNSTIMUUSEUMI

Incentive prize

„The Line and The Dot“

General feedback:

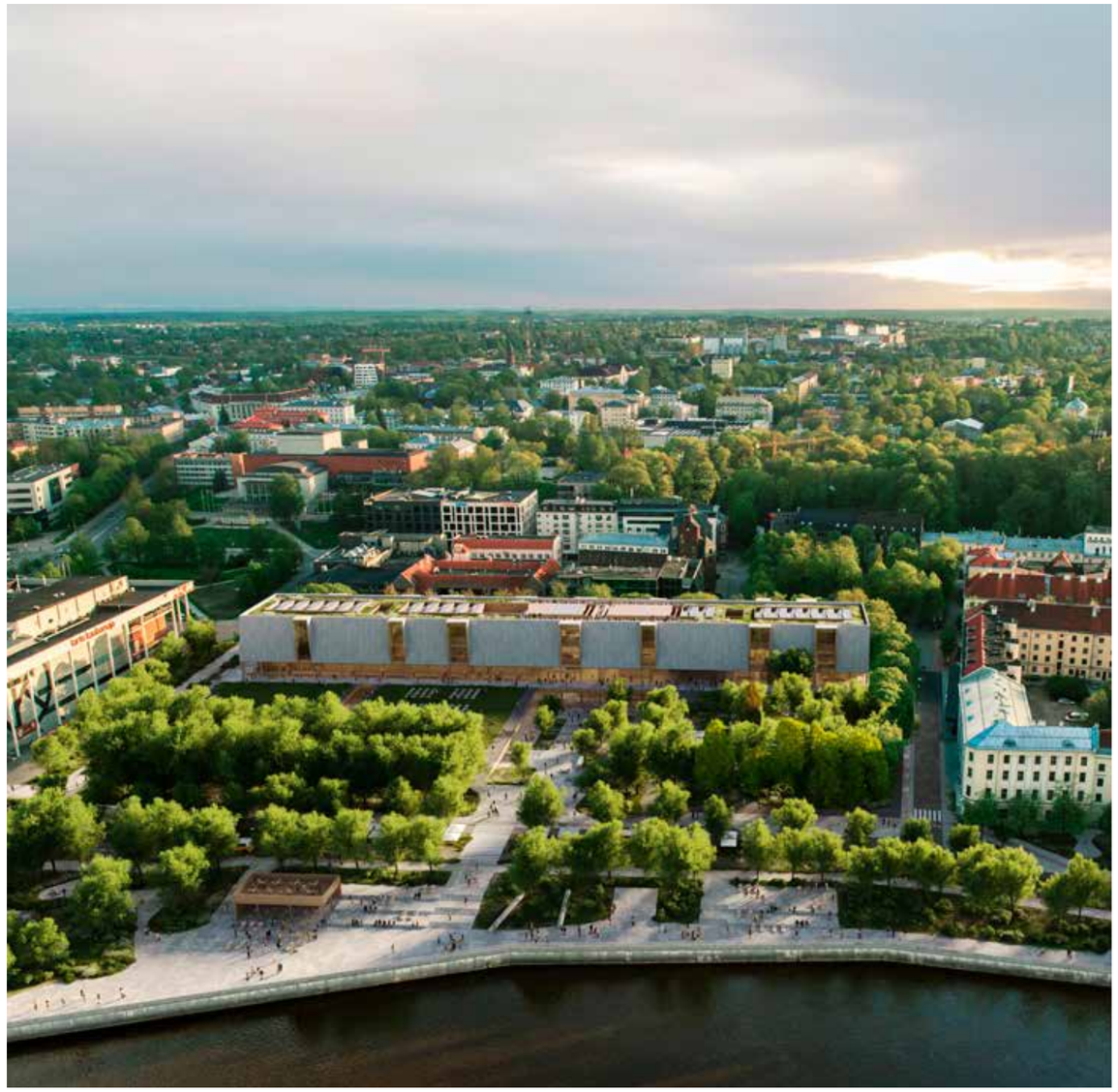
Aesthetically, it is a very strong work that has its own unique architectural charm. The location of the building in the urban space is distinguished from all other competition entries, creating a strong front along Küün street and leaving a complete park area towards the river bank. The celebration of Kauba street in the urban space is elegantly resolved. The building has an exciting dual architectural language, where the first floor is active and well connected to the urban space, while the upper floors have a stronger impact and are calmly rhythmic with windows. The architectural clarity of the building is also one of its biggest weaknesses, as the so-called “enclosed hat” solution creates many dark areas in the interior. Attempts have been made to compensate for this with elegant roof panels, but at the latitude of Estonia, the interior of the building can still appear very dim and crumbling for most of the year. Similarly, a long building is a major barrier in terms of biodiversity, as it completely disrupts the green corridor between Barclay Park and the river, contrary to the competition task, which aimed at strengthening it. Also, the long volume of the building is very difficult in creating internal logistics and synergy of the premises.

Competition entry visual quality is high-level and the work is professional.

Opinions of the jury and experts, strengths (+) and weaknesses (–) of the competition entry:

+ Clear and strong architectural concept. The layout of the building is boldly different from other entries in the competition.
+ Vabadus street has been changed to be pedestrian-friendly and greener. A connection has been created between Küüni street and Vabaduse street.
+ Many of the current trees will be preserved, and the plan is to plant significantly more trees. The planned green strip in the middle of Vabadus boulevard will improve the ecological coherence of the riverside green area with the Keskpark areas.
+ The sunken cinema square up to the river is a spatially exciting solution, it creates its own environment in the urban space

– Designs and explanations are too general – nothing is specifically written about the contents of the library
– Quite a lot of windowless stone surfaces, the question arises - how to ensure adequate lighting of the interior spaces. The upper massive volume could be much more airy, so that the interior space would also work.
– The connection between Uueturu and Vanemuise streets and the connection with Uueturu park is incomplete. There are no cafes on the riverside.
– Biodiversity has not been dealt with very thoroughly. Meadow and forest landscaping is not mentioned. The various solutions of the herbaceous vegetation and the approach to the park as an ecosystem have not been discussed. There will be more paved areas along Emajõgi than at present.
– The museum is located on the 2nd floor below the utility rooms, there is no synergy between the museum and the library, there is no daylight for the conservators.
– The surfaces of the warehouses are located far from the stages, and it is not possible to push things directly from the warehouse onto the stage, in the small hall there is only one artist’s access to the stage.
– A lift from the ground is planned for the lorry (approx. 28 tons) serving the building, which is not a realistic solution – very expensive
– The gross height of the parking floors is 3 m, which, together with the suspended ceiling and communications, makes the space about 2.2–2.5 m high, which is not enough.
– On Kauba street, from Vabaduse street to the river and in the area of active leisure, the movement paths solved only by stairs are not suitable for people with mobility disabilities.



Honorary mention

„Maastikuga seotud mälestused“

General feedback:

Although the competition entry “MAASTIKUGA SEOTUD MÄLESTUSED” does not meet several important criteria of the competition task, the work deserves to be noted for its unique architectural solution. The field of buildings consisting of pavilions of different heights and diameters has a fresh and attractive effect, enriching the park area with a versatile spatial experience. Recessed courtyards also bring light to the underground floors, making the basement spaces functionally usable. A large part of the existing trees will be preserved, and thanks to moving the building volumes underground, a large part of the surface will be left for landscaping. From the point of view of the museum, it is a good functional whole, but the library’s solution does not particularly take into account the spatial program and there is no synergy between the different parts.

Competition entry is professional.

Opinions of the jury and experts, strengths (+) and weaknesses (–) of the competition entry:

+ A strong architectural concept – a field of pavilions in a park landscape.
+ The park area is in focus and the volume of the building seems small thanks to the cutting up the volumes.
+ A good solution from the museum’s point of view.
– The building exceeds the permitted height and the number of floors does not correspond to the general plan, the facades of any part of the building are not located on the mandatory construction line.
– On the tallest building (34.20 from the ground), there is no calculation whether it is 5% of the surface under construction and the presented drawings lack data for evaluation.
– Although the round towers are inspired by historical towers in the area, historically there has been only one tower in the area at the same time, the proposed one caricatures the earlier towers and has a dominant effect on the heritage area.
– No new solutions have been proposed along Emajõgi.
– The construction of one building (a valuable movie theatre) depends on the result of archaeological research.
– Biodiversity has not been paid attention to in the project. Very little additional landscaping. Vabaduse boulevard and the existing underground parking lots (Department Store and Market Hall) will remain approximately in their current form. Instead of reducing the traffic load and the parking area, wider paved areas and squares for pedestrians are planned.
– Weak design, difficult to understand the interrelationships of the rooms.

Honorary mention

„Väike mets“

General feedback:

The sensitive architectural solution of the “VÄIKE METS” competition entry deserves special mention for its very special and emotional spatial solution. The details of the building have been thoroughly worked out and have an attractive effect. The building’s strong connection with the park and its fusion with the park has an exciting effect. Natural diversity is important in the project, and the idea of using bridges between different trees allows a kind of green experience without taking away space from the green areas themselves. No new large squares will be created with the building, and clearly different typologies of plants are planned. The building is compact and logical, and there is a strong synergy between the museum and the library. They are not, as it were, separate institutions, but are closely related to each other. The museum exposition and the library have been tried to function in a common overall space, and at the same time separate areas are created, it is not just one big space. The street level of the building communicates with the public urban space and has an inviting effect.

Competition entry is professional.

Opinions of the jury and experts, strengths (+) and weaknesses (–) of the competition entry:

+ A sensitive architectural solution that communicates with the surrounding park landscape and urban space.
+ Thoughtful natural diversity and biodiversity enhancing solutions.
+ Strong symbiosis, interweaving between library and museum.
+ Clear structure and elaborate architectural details.

– No side of the building is located on the mandatory construction line, the house is located in the forest and does not relate to the streets.
– The historical axis of the Kauba street will not be restored.
– The facades are uniform, with little articulation in terms of volume. Translucent polycarbonate panels are used as facade material, which are not suitable from the point of view of heritage protection.
– It is planned to plant some trees in the area of Vabaduse street, but the area under the trees will remain paved. In this way, the ecological coherence of the riverside green area with the Keskpark area improves only marginally for individual groups of animals (mainly birds). The paved area by Emajõgi is more than now.
– The building’s outdoor perimeter uses glulam constructions, which are mostly unprotected from external influences. The plastic double facade provides partial protection. At the same time, the double facade hides the views from the building.
– The building is compact, but there are no good solutions for the operation of natural light in the interior of the building.
– Trucks serving buildings have been moved to −1. floor to the basement and the loading area takes up a lot of space.
– There are few functional activity spaces in the outdoor space. The main entrance is not clearly visible.

ASSESSMENTS FOR THE WORKS VOTED OUT IN JURY I EVALUATION ROUND

As a summary of the first round of jury evaluation, 77 competition entries were voted out for one, several or all of the following reasons:

- Architecturally weak solution and unclear concept
- Little consideration of the local context and illogical location in the urban space
- Little synergy between institutions and functionally thought out at an insufficient level

Competition entries voted out in I round:

„AGORA“, „AGORAA“, „AJA VOOL“, „ARCADES“, „BETWEEN LINES“, „BOAB“, „CARRACK“, „CITADELLE TARTU“, „CULTURE VALLEY“, „DUO“, „ELU ON LILL“, „EMAJÕE DELTA“, „FORTY FOR FORTY“, „GOOD IDEA WITH QR CODE“, „GREEN WAY“, „HIDDEN TREASURE“, „HIIS“, „HILL OF CULTURE“, „HINGAMINE“, „ITER“, „JUURED JA RAJAD“, „KOMPASS“, „KROON“, „KROSSKULTUR“, „KULTUURILINN“ „KULTUURIKAUBA TÄNAV“, „KULTUURIOAAS“ „KULTUURISALU/ CULTURE GROVE“, „KULTUURITEE“, „KULTUURMAASTIK“, „KULTUURPÄÄSUKE“, „KUMA, „KVINTETIINO“, „LAGENDIK KESET METSA“, „LAMELL“, „LAPUTA“, „LEHT“, „LINNAMÄLU“, „LINNAPALIMPSEST“, „LINNARAJAD“, „MARBLING SPACE“, „METSA RAIESMIK“, „MÕTTEPUU“, „NEXTTARTU“, „OOD LOODUSELE“, „PARGI(M)ELU“, „PARK LIFE“, „PAVILION“, „PERISTÜÜLMAJA“, „POETRY OF BEING“, „PROJEKT RUKKILILL“, „REIS ÜMBER MAAILMA“, „ROHELINE AAS“, „RÕÕM“, „ROTUNDA“, „SNHMZT“, „SÕNADE KUNST“, „SUNNY VALLEY“, „TADOCUCE“, „TARTU CITY HUB“, „TARTU KULTUURIMÄGI“, „TARTU PÄIKESETÕUS“, „TARTU PESAMAJA“, „TARTU TRIANGLE“, „TEADMISTE PUUD“, „THE BOOK“, „THE CURVES OF TIME“, „THE HUMAN VOICE“, „THE MERCHANTS YARD OF CULTURE“, „THE SQUARE“, „TRIANGLE“, „ÜLEVAL“, „VÄIKE PUUST LINN“, „VALGUSKUPLID“, „VIIS AKENT PUUDE VAHEL“, „VINT“, „VÕIKU“.

ASSESSMENTS FOR THE WORKS VOTED OUT IN JURY II EVALUATION ROUND

As a summary of the second round of jury evaluation, 17 works were voted out for one, several or all of the following reasons:

- Weak landscape architecture solution and biodiversity concept
- An unreasonable and expensive solution from technical perspective
- Contradictions with the special conditions of heritage protection
- Contradictions with the Tartu general plan
- Deficiencies in the architecture solution
- Deficiencies in urban spatial solution
- Little synergy between institutions and shortcomings in the arrangement of functions

Competition entries voted out in II round:

„AX100“, „BIOTOOP“, „CRESCENDO“, „INWOODS“, „KNOWLEDGE NEXUS“, „KULTUURILISE KOHTUMISE VÄLJAK“, „KULTUURIPARK“, „KULTUURIPAVILJON“, „LEAFSCAPE“, „LUIGELUULINN“, „PASTILL“, „PERGULA“, „PESA“, „PÖÖNING“, „TARTU BLEND“, „TECTONIC“, „VIIV“.

The Estonian Association of Architects is a voluntary and independent artistic association of architects established in 1921 operating as a non-profit organisation and a nationally recognised artistic association.

The objectives of the association are, among other things, to contribute to the establishment of high-quality living environment that consists of a sustainably used natural environment and a wisely and culturally developed built environment. In order to contribute to this, the association has prepared guidelines for architecture competitions and also organised architecture competitions over the years, thus providing their high-quality expertise. Thoroughly considered and well organised architecture competitions ensure a good living environment for all of us.

The Estonian Association of Architects advises and organises around 30 architecture competitions in a year.

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