

International Competition arturbain.fr  
17<sup>th</sup> Session 2008/2009

DESIGN WITH NATURE<sup>1</sup>  
intercommunal territories and small towns

*Each nation faces the problem of creating a living environment that respects human dignity.*

*The age of globalization is seeing, in all countries, an acceleration in the inordinate, disorganized and unrestricted growth of urban areas. Experts believe this phenomenon to be irreversible.*

*Given this situation, a response to urban development, harmonious with nature, may be found in the thoughtful, structured and economical development of intercommunal territories and small towns.*

*The competition involves giving thought to the processes of change in these territories, proposing rules for managing and landscaping sites and Designing With Nature. Reflections may similarly involve the potential within intercommunality for economic, social and cultural development and the day-to-day functioning such as transport, schools and businesses. This work will be based on, and take account of, the expectations of sustainable development (strengthening of biodiversity, reduction of energy consumption, etc.).*

*On this basis, individual development projects of general interest, such as infrastructures or developments which strengthen biodiversity, may be proposed.*

In order to promote the quality of the living environment, each year the urban art association, in its Robert Auzelle Seminar, invites multidisciplinary groups of students and teachers from all over the world who work in subjects related to the living environment, to reflect on a topic concerning the definition of urban Art. The topic chosen for 2008/2009 is:

“**Design with Nature**, intercommunal territories and small towns”

The teams in each country, cooperating with the local authorities, will undertake an **analysis of an intercommunal territory**. On the basis of this existing situation in the territory, they will define a “**nature network**” plan (the “system of parks”, etc.) showing the existing natural free spaces and biotopes (water courses, agricultural land, woods, parks, gardens, etc.), together with their links to the surrounding urban nuclei. The plan should be at a scale of 1:25000 or 1:10000.

The teams must also present a **project of intercommunal interest** (a site with an area from 1 to 10 hectares), inserted into this intercommunal network of natural and developed spaces. This project will be shown on a layout plan at a scale of 1:1000 or 1:500.

Each team, comprising one teacher and two or three students, must indicate in its proposal how architectural quality, the quality of social life and respect for the environment are taken into consideration. The criteria for evaluating quality are those of the Internet jury<sup>2</sup>. The book entitled “Guide to the quality of the living environment”<sup>3</sup> may be useful for guidance.

The annotations on sketches must be in French.

Help with the graphical representation and urban composition can be found in the pages of “Vocabulaire illustré de l’Art urbain” (Illustrated vocabulary of urban art).

Further teaching information can found at [www.arturbain.fr](http://www.arturbain.fr).

<sup>1</sup> This title is similar to that of the work by Ian L. McHarg, publications 1969: the word “design” implies both design and conciliation.

<sup>2</sup> See Article 6 of the Rules

<sup>3</sup> Cf. “Référentiel pour la qualité du cadre de vie”, RMA éditions du Certu: a summary can be found on the [www.arturbain.fr](http://www.arturbain.fr) site