Net Point
Civic center virtual network, Sortavala, Russia

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Summary by the jury
The project presents a network of “real virtuality” centers in small towns across Russia including Sortavala (Сортавала) near the border with Finland, in an effort to put them on the map. The connection “Points” are multipurpose buildings equipped with modern communications technology, providing the possibility of video-conferences, spreading music from a concert hall into the streets, holding meetings or lectures, etc. It involves people in real communication by virtual interaction with its own citizens and with inhabitants of other towns. By participating in this network, small towns will raise awareness of their own values and reinforce the identity of their citizens.

Appraisal by the jury
The jury was primarily interested in the idea of creating an “architectural instrument” to promote political awareness and discourse both within the physical domain of the city as well as the virtual realm of social communication. An appropriate strategy for assembling architectural components is offered, forming a type of bricolage that can adapt to specific conditions. Furthermore, a scalar principle underscores the approach, which aims to connect the small-scale properties of local circumstances with the large territory of a nation, while promoting identity across different civic constituencies.

Project data
Context Architecture, building and civil engineering
Client Sortavala, a small Russian town in Karelia
Background Research project

Further authors
Image 3: The Net: all towns can communicate with each other. Their profiles are also available for big cities.

Image 4: Cultural diversity of the people of Russia and communication instead of monotony and dissociation.

Image 5: Connection between two towns by using of video conference.

Image 6: Real virtuality: a space inside the public center turns into street of another town.


Image 8: Interaction of eco-technologies.


Image 10: Inspiration: LEGO inviting play with structures; Panel house; Wooden fence; Retro camera.