Evergreen City
Urban pine forest rehabilitation, Beirut, Lebanon

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Summary by the jury
The Beirut Pine Forest is a green space extending over more than two hectares with a natural ecosystem typical of the Mediterranean region including native tree species, shrubs, and plants. The unique green space known locally as Horsh El Snoubar or Bois de Pins is located in the middle of the capital and considered the largest botanical garden in Lebanon. A rehabilitation plan has been proposed to develop the facilities and services needed in the park for opening it to the public and promoting it for cultural, social, sports, and environmental activities – while at the same time maintaining and conserving the park’s natural habitats. Environmental standards and urban needs will be integrated in a seamless way, enhancing the sense of belonging to the wider community.

Appraisal by the jury
The project’s bold intention to open up a territory – located in the midst of the city’s “concrete jungle” and essentially suppressed and forgotten in the collective memory – to the public at large was strongly commended by the jury. The city of Beirut, under constant pressure by private development to use every piece of available land for more and more expansion, must rehabilitate its green spaces and make them accessible to the public – a restoration not only of its natural habitat but most importantly of the very ideal of the city as collective body – Beirut’s civitas.

Further authors
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Project data
Context: Landscape, urban design and infrastructure
Client: Municipality of Beirut
Background: Public commission
Planned start: June 2014
Image 3: This zone offers learning pathways and open fields to host different events.

Image 4: This zone is the greenest area of the forest and where families can meet in the proposed program.

Image 5: This zone has a program that incorporates everything from a city that is not a building or a road.

Image 6: People from all ages and backgrounds will use the forest throughout the year.

Image 7: There is a minimum intervention on the existing pathways: A water feature will be added.

Image 8: The overall objective is to improve the state of green cover and water infrastructure.

Image 9: The existing natural landscape is preserved: The difference in level is 10m.

Image 10: Maintaining the existing features of the forest by enhancing them.

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