X Marks the Spot
Socially-focused architectural design, Spain

Main authors
Hamid Jaberi, Ricardo Mayer, Héctor Muñoz and Ignacio Taas, architects, DAT Pangea, Madrid, Spain

Project data
Context: Landscape, urban design and infrastructure
Clients: Junta of Andalusia/Foundation Konexta/Roquetas Town Council
Background: Research project

Appraisal by the jury
The jury awarded the first prize in the “Next Generation” category for Europe to a group of young architects from Spain who submitted a range of excellent projects planned for Pujaire and Roquetas de Mar in Almería in southeast Spain, and also in Madrid. The individual entries made it to the last round of jury deliberations and were all deemed exceptional both in terms of content and form. In these unusual circumstances, the prize was confirmed to a collection of projects by the group of designers rather than to a single project. Of significance in this regard is the group’s name “Designs for Architectural Territories” (DAT) which is more than a simple designation of an architectural collaborative, but stands for a program of action – where architectural design is a method to raise and potentially solve societal deficiencies.

The design propositions aim for a dialog between architecture and politics, taking key social problems into consideration whilst offering appropriate design solutions to address specific issues at hand. The projects tackle, for example, the devastating social conditions of workers in the agricultural sector in the region of Almería in southeast Spain, and the lack of public parks in cities and towns throughout the region. Similarly, measures are offered to improve the role of public spaces in neighborhoods in the city of Madrid. Considering the shared spirit of the group, the jury strongly recommends an equal sharing of the prize awarded to the team.

Prize awarded to the team.

Project summaries
Project 1: Spatial plan and agricultural restructure
The spatial plan for 600km² of land used for intensive agriculture potentially solves societal deficiencies. The program may be initiated at any point due to low cost and allows regeneration and a customized approach according to the needs of the neighborhood, and promoting ethical and social responsibility.

Project 2: Temporary spaces for public engagement
Temporary spaces for public engagement: Ephemeral architecture for free education: one possible plan and section on some public space of someplace.

Project 3: Productive urban garden
Productive urban garden: Creating a new ecosystem by recycling the invisible existing sources. The existing installations will serve as raw materials for the creation of a new topography, and a participative effort will contribute to the improvement of conditions in adjacent spaces.

Further authors
Hani Jaber, Ricardo Mayor, Héctor Muñoz and Ignacio Taas, architects, DAT Pangea, Madrid, Spain

Philmeral Architecture for Free Education
By recontextualizing the needs and social roles in the PCB program, the methodology and teaching program. The new project areas are among the heterogeneous and varied worlds in which the group works – always looking for synergetic, integrating program packages for the city.