X Marks the Spot
Socially-focused architectural design, Spain

Main authors
Hani Jaber, Ricardo Mayor, Héctor Muñoz and Ignacio Taus, architects, DAT Pangea, Madrid, Spain

Summary 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 conferred 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.

Appraisal by the jury
The design propositions aim for a dialog between architecture and politics, taking key social problems into consideration while 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.

Project data
Context
Landscape, urban design and infrastructure

Clients
Junta of Andalusia/Foundation Konecta/ Roquetas Town Council

Background
Research project
Project summaries

**Project 1: Spatial plan and agricultural restructure**
The spatial plan for 600km² of land used for intensive agriculture in plastic greenhouses in Pujaire in the region of Almería, Spain, remediates a destroyed natural habitat and declining economy that lacks social infrastructure. The project proposes the rearrangement of water supplies, introduction of wildlife corridors, development of model cities, and enhancement of the greenhouse architecture—all focused on a natural environmental restoration of agro-industrial territories and improvement of social conditions for the region’s inhabitants.

**Project 2: Temporary spaces for public engagement**
A system of easily mountable and removable light structures enables the infiltration of public space and provision of real rather than virtual public programs. Conceived as an economic stimulus proposal in Madrid, Spain, the project is an attempt to resolve the economic, social and environmental situation of our planet by installing a platform promoting ethical and social responsibility, sensitive to the emotional needs of each person, and strengthening collective identity and its ability to change reality.

**Project 3: Productive urban garden**
The concept revitalizes a degraded area in Roquetas de Mar in the region of Almería, Spain, and creates a park for public use. The plan envisages the construction of a utilitarian park—a leisure area which collects rainwater and recharges groundwater but also produces energy: a park that meets the needs of inhabitants. 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.