De-Salination
Symbiotic water supply and landscape regeneration, Dublin, Ireland

Main author
András Dankházi, architect, University College Dublin, Ireland

Summary by the jury
The project’s starting point is the ongoing water-supply crisis in the Irish capital of Dublin. New water sources are needed to support the city’s growing population. Abandoned landfill sites in industrial South Dublin Bay are surrounded by a nature reserve, walking trails, and two power plants. The project’s main concept is to reuse the warmed saltwater rejected from power plants in a mixed-use infrastructure for low-cost de-salination. Its own waste product, warm brine, discharges to establish a brine aerosol microclimate – the ideal conditions for the generation of salt marsh gardens, extending the nature reserve and preserving the timber structure of the power plant by keeping the wood perpetually moist. The same water source warms a public bath pool on the rooftop via heat exchangers.

Appraisal by the jury
The jury was highly impressed by the young architect’s ability to translate a complex set of technical parameters into a series of architectural interventions, all represented by means of beautiful drawings. The proposed desalination system is transformed into a poetic artefact in the landscape, a “machine à émouvoir” that performs its functions, while touching the senses.

Project data
- Context: Landscape, urban design and infrastructure
- Client: Not applicable
- Background: Research project

Further authors