

Riigikogu building 100 workshop Minutes of the evaluation committee

June 17th 2022
Tallinn, Estonia

The members of the international evaluation committee:

Ralf Lööke, mentor (Salto arhitektid), Estonia

Linda Krūmiņa and Miķelis Putrāms, mentors (MADE arhitekti), Latvia

Volodymyr Ponomarenko and Yurii Parkhomenko, mentors (Ponomarenko Bureau), Ukraine

Andro Mänd, President of the Estonian Association of Architects

Antero Habicht, Director of the Chancellery of the Riigikogu

The [architecture workshop](#) took place from June 15th to 17th at Toompea Castle in Tallinn. 22 young architects and architecture students from Estonia, Latvia and Ukraine took part in the workshop and 5 teams were formed.

The creative brief called on workshop participants to come up with a future vision for the entire Toompea castle complex. The workshop was looking for spatial reconceptualisations of one of the most important buildings in the Republic of Estonia.

Workshop participants had free rein in terms of concepts and architecture. They were urged to come up with sweeping and ambitious ideas befitting the 100th anniversary of the Riigikogu building.

The result is to be expressed in a professional format appropriate for display at an exhibition in the Riigikogu in September.

Workshop objectives were:

1. Look to the future and elicit bold ideas for a spatial reconceptualisation of the Riigikogu building of the Republic of Estonia and the entire castle complex.
2. Plan a more human-friendly and environmentally friendly mobility solution in and around the Toompea castle complex. Preference should be given to pedestrians, cyclists and other non-car road users in terms of accessibility.
3. Create additional incentives for Tallinners to visit Toompea Castle and the Riigikogu building, tapping into the potential of its multifaceted and valuable architecture.
4. Propose a holistic concept of the whole area, which allows for diverse and flexible use of the areas, involves different age groups, offers diverse activities and helps to integrate values.
5. Strengthen the Riigikogu building as an inviting landmark for people using the Old Town and the city centre.

The best project:

The evaluation committee unanimously agreed to call "[Pique Hermana](#)" – authors Andreas Hinojosa and Mia Maripuu from Estonia, Alisher Sadykov from Latvia, and Jelōzaveta Peresada from Ukraine – **as the best project.**

The committee stated:

„Persistent teamwork resulted in a bold idea. A magical observation tower in a courtyard adds a contemporary layer to the eclectic complex without touching protected buildings. The proposal involved the important idea to use underground spaces what would lead to a broader discussion regarding what is actually located underneath the castle hill and how it could be used in future.“

“We see an example of very well coordinated teamwork and the right way forward. Starting with the contours of the conditional building in the Riigikogu yard, the team gradually came to a holistic and monolithic concept. The concept solves the problem of access to the castle, opens it to people through the tower, and draws attention to the feasibility of using the underground space.”

The noted project:

Another project, "[Thermae of Democracy](#)" – authors Tristan Krevald, Ra Martin Puhkan and Siim Tanel Tõnisson from Estonia, Tabita Ozoliņa from Latvia and Daria Polonska from Ukraine –, was noted by the evaluation committee.

The committee stated:

„Thermae of Democracy is a project with the idea of turning the first floor of the Riigikogu building into a complex of thermae. It sounds incredible, but it really raises the question of true democratic values. From the very beginning, the team decided on a concept and worked steadily on it, keeping it on course. As a result, the project with the strongest narrative, the boldest and most interesting idea.“

“Quality research and strong narrative skilfully executed. Landscape platforms as a final solution rather formal tool to generate real discussions. Bathes and saunas disarm policy makers and create more democracy. Good presentation combining theoretical concept with practical interventions.”

Comments on the other projects:

Green Power Rangers

„Turning the castle walls and the entire castle into a year-round garden complex is a very bold and interesting idea. The team divided the complex into two parts - a closed governmental part and an open public part. The team proposed to fill the open part with winter gardens, so that at any time of the year residents and visitors to Tallinn could spend time in a comfortable environment.“

“Good ideas, not appreciated by the team enough for good further development. Evergreen winter gardens would be a perfect experience in a grey or white Nordic climate, but was not visible in presentation.”

People's eyes on the top

“The project with the original idea of using the roofs of the Toompea castle complex, which allows you to look at the building from new angles. Also, on the roofs of the government castle there are new urban reliefs with many functions of use. Additionally, the project creates a non-obvious metaphor for democracy: citizens over the government.”

“Sensitive concept that was lacking consistent development in appealing design language. Very promising concept how to open parliament to public without compromising security issues and placing public over politicians.”

Blue

„The idea was to make the main facade of the government complex more open. The participants implemented this by using deconstructivist elements that entice people to walk into the courtyard as well as to the observation deck behind the fortress wall. Another interesting solution was to make a replica of the courtyard in the Riigikogu, the same tables and chairs, but for all citizens, so it becomes a place for the people to express their will and also creates a platform for direct dialogue with the government.“

“Realistic approach how to open courtyard to the public inspired by real story from 1990, where entering/exiting the courtyard was a central issue. Sensual experience generated by emphasizing the movement and friction through the walls is interesting but is it enough to bring a new life to Riigikogu?“

The works must be professionally designed (in Estonian and English, in a max. two A1 format posters, other spatial exhibition media are allowed as well) appropriate for display at the exhibition. Date of submission of works in final format is August 22nd 2022.

The best project will be awarded 1000* (one thousand) euros.

The noted project will be awarded 300* (three hundred) euros additionally to the 100* euros participation bonus for each team member (500* euros for the team).

* Value tax is added to the amount.

The prize fund will be transferred after the final files presented at the exhibition have been sent by the participants.

The exhibition of the projects will be opened at Riigikogu on September 12th 2022.

The statements have been approved by all the members of the evaluation committee.

Recorded by:

Kairi Rand

Project Manager
Estonian Association of Architects

kairi@arhliit.ee